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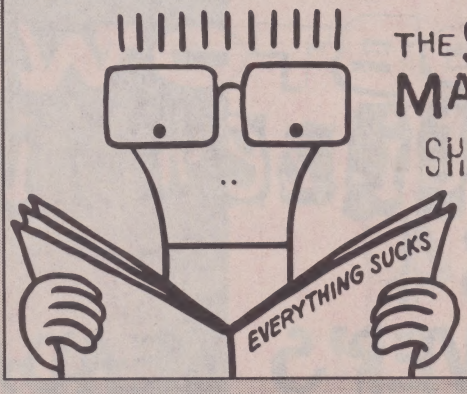

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TEN WAYS TO MAKE IT BIG IN THE MUSIC INDUSTRY:

1. Find a gimmick. Create your own niche. Wear funny costumes. Dress up like prehistoric animals. Blow snot rockets and wear Kleenex boxes on top of your heads.

2. Have a female front your band. She has to be sexy and flirty to keep those potential groupie guys on their toes. Better yet, create an all-female band (proven to be a hot commodity). Record labels love it (most labels are predominantly male-influenced).

3. Kiss all promoters' asses (especially the bigger-named ones). Try to become friends with them. Take them out to Togo's occasionally. Compliment them -- "Say, your shows are great -- you guys really know how to promote . . ." or "I would love to play for your guys."

4. Create a great bio seeping with lies all over it. "We sell out all our shows, " or "We opened for the Descendents/NOFX/No Doubt in '94." Be creative.

5. Always compliment the bands you play with. And always have good words about them to whomever you speak with. Remember, networking is key. Be an angel. Say positive things about your fellow bands.

6. You must always think "Sell out." Questions like these should come up in practice constantly: "Are these choruses catchy enough?", "Is this guitar radio-friendly enough?", "Will people sing along to this?", "Will chicks dig it?", "Does this sound mainstream enough?", Is this song catchy enough for listeners to love it the first five times they hear it and absolutely despise it after six?", "Do we sound enough like NOFX?"

7. Act cool and confident. You must carry on the attitude that you're "the shit". When speaking about your band, always talk it up. "We have a mailing list of 350," or "Our demo tapes sold out in a week," or "Gwen said we're the best band she's heard since '89."

8. Get as much press in magazines or newspapers as humanly possible. The most important interviews or reviews in print are the nice, fluffy articles similar to regurgitated bios. That's what you need. How? Tell the editor "I love your magazine, it's way better than SKRATCH. I subscribe every year. I read it first thing in the morning."

9. Get sponsored. This gives off an image that your band is on its way to stardom. Matching stage attire strongly suggests this attitude.

10. Be rebellious. Onstage shoot fire out of your ass. Chew on glass. Show your private parts. Take out a 9 mm. and aim it at the audience. Be unpredictable. Now, you're on the way to being rock stars, baby.

Remember, do what ever you have to do to make it big in the music industry. Schmooze the important people, smile, keep in mind everyone is your artificial friend for rent, , every move you make, every breath you take is vital, the media and fans will be watching you. So, go ahead and try to make it big, it's the musicians' dream, right?

-Scott

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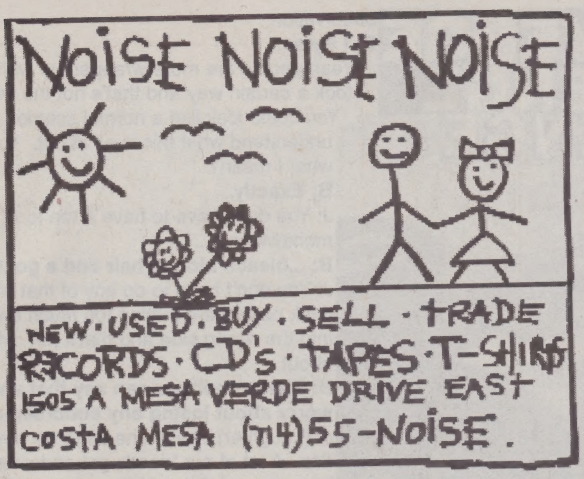

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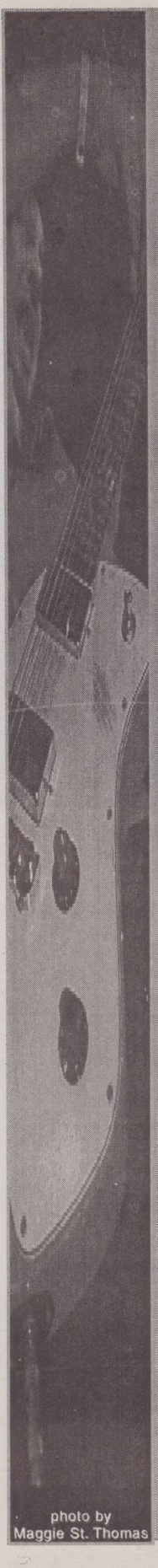
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PUBLISHER:
SCOTT PRESANT

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:
LISA APISTA
JAMES AVETO
K.C. CALUNGCAGIN
EMPTY
DAN GRUIA
JONNY HALPERIN
MAYNARD KREBS
BRUCE KOLBERG
SASHA LIEGE
JACKIE O
KIMBERLY OWENS
SCOTT PRESANT
SLOSHA
CELESTE TABORA
MARCIA TAYLOR
MEL TORMENT
DAVID TURBOW

GRAPHICS/LAYOUT:
SCOTT PRESANT
DAN GRUIA (SCANMAN)

PHOTOGRAPHERS:
JAMES AVETO
RICK BAIN
ELAINA DUETSCH
SAM FISHER
JIMBO GRAY
RON ROUSH
ANASTACIA WILHITE

SHOW COORDINATOR:
RACHAEL EASTON

ADVERTISING:
DAN GRUIA
SCOTT PRESANT
RAY ARROYO (CLASSIFIEDS)

ASSISTANTS:
RACHAEL EASTON
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Oh. And always remember: Today is the day to smile. Today is the day to turn to your soulmate and say "I love you." Today is the day to run your head into a white china plate from Korea and move to Canada with your Salvadoran loved one and eat California rolls.

-scott presant

The editor does not necessarily share the opinions expressed in this publication, but Dan does. The editor does not necessarily share the same toilet as Dan Does. The editor and Dan do not necessarily give a rat's ass.

JUGHEAD'S REVENGE

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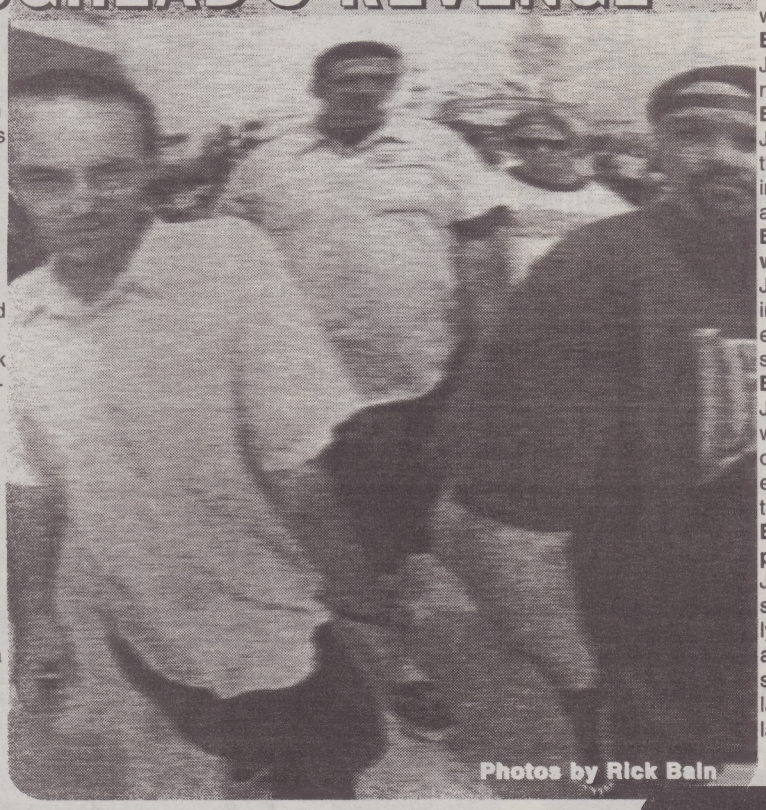
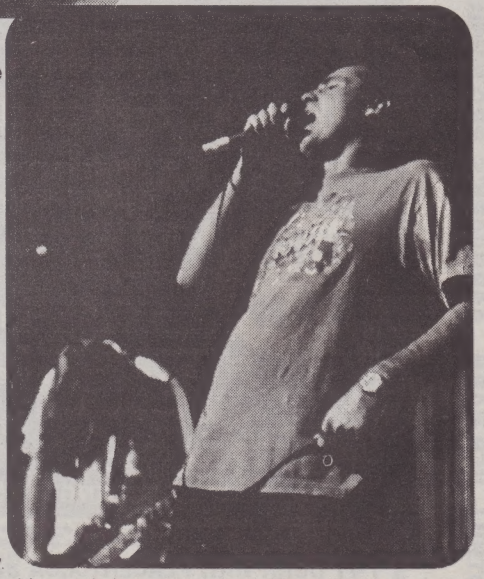
Interview

B- Bruce Kolberg, Skratch
J- Joe, Jughead's Revenge



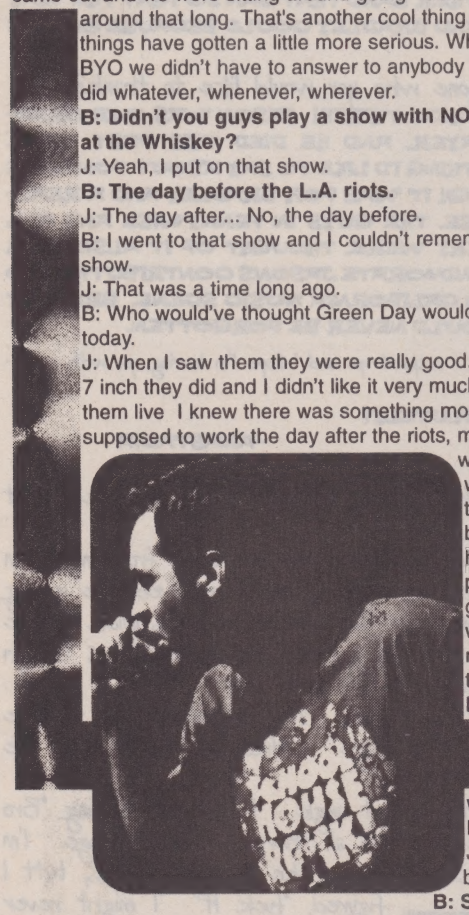
Photos by Rick Bain

B: Quick History of the band.
J: We're from L.A., and started in 1989. We were doing punk when punk wasn't that cool to do and we kept doing it.
B: Were you pleased with the new album and Nitro?
J: Yeah, Absolutely. Nitro's a great label. They're a class act.
B:That sounds like a lame question, like what else could you say?
J: A lot of bands don't. With BYO they never owned our records, we just licensed them so we did what ever and the thing we've got to remember is with Nitro we have people to keep people informed of what's going on.
B: How has it been working with Brian?
J: We've known him for along time. The Offspring used to open for us a long time ago. He's one of the few guys whose returned the favor for us helping them out in the old days.
B: What did you think of them back then?
J: I think that record was awesome and I was pleased to see he re-release it. The first time we played with them was when that record first came out. It was at Gilman Street in '89.
B: With Pennywise and NOFX. Yeah, I have a flyer from that show with Bill the Cat on it.
J: Rad! That was a pretty cool show. We recorded a 7 inch from that show.
B: Outta beer outta tune outta control.
J: Yeah, we played terribly that night.
B: How many 7 inches did you press.
J: 1000 of 'em were made.
B: For real?
J: Really.
B: Really, there aren't gonna be any mysteriously showing up in stores anywhere?
J: Never, we threw away the plates.
B: Cool, I think I have #331 or 313.
J: I think I have two of them somewhere.
B: Blue vinyl. Wonder what it's worth?
J: I was working at a head shop and Epitaph at the time we put out that record and we started working on Lonely at the Bottom. We were pretty busy at that time, I worked at Epitaph in the morning, then off to the head shop, work till midnight, then to Kinkos.
B: What about Image is Everything?
J: It's a sarcastic poke at the punk scene on how it's become a little bit more concentrated on how it looks rather than how it sounds or what it says. I'm not saying it should be one way or the other, that's just my observation
B: I agree.
J: Yeah people are more wrapped up with having to look a certain way and that's not the way it is. You could look like a normal schmoe but understand what this is all about. You know what I mean?
B: Exactly.
J: You don't have to have a ten foot mohawk and ...
B: ...bleach blonde hair and a goatee.
J: You don't have to do any of that shit, I think people are putting too much energy into the wrong side and that's not what it's about.
B: That's cool you can say that and not worry about losing any endorsements.
J: (Laughter) That's one thing we never got into. A lot of our friends got endorsed and every one of them thinks we wrote that song about them.
B: Which song?
J: Four nine six one, all of our friends think we wrote it about them but it wasn't about one band it was about all the bands that are endorsed and there's a high percentage of the newer bands that are.
B: Well it says something when Vans promotes a punk rock arena tour.
J: No, isn't usually Airwalk. Air walk sponsors most of the bands, you have to be really cool to get Vans. My friends joke with me about how they just got 5 new pairs of shoes . It's like yada yada yada and we laugh about it but I still tell them they're lame for doing it.



B: Have you had the opportunity to be endorsed?
J: No..not really, you have to go to them. Unless you're NOFX, then they come to you cause your a big band. I don't see the logic with these bands getting endorsed by 5 different clothing and shoe companies. These bands are relatively small where I can understand a company having NOFX wear their clothes because people are going to see them. But with the smaller bands, what's the purpose?
B: If I see a band is endorsed I usually don't pay them any attention.
J: Us and Decendents are just about the only people I know who buys our own clothes
B: What is parliament of the whores?
J: Kinda ... basically, their in it for the wrong reasons I won't say their in it for the money. It seems that people are turning the punk scene into the regular music biz and that music biz is like a parliament of whores.

B: I think punk was the last music to exploit by the industry.
J: One thing that I heard someone say once you eliminate all your enemies you start to feed on yourself. I've noticed that has happened a lot in the punk scene especially over past 2 years. There's nobody to make fun of anymore, there's nobody to hate anymore, so the punk scene is starting to point the finger at each other then that starts excluding everybody, you know that confuses things even worst.
B: Do you like touring?
J: Yeah, that's when I'm the happiest, when i'm working. I hate sitting around and that was the thing. We recorded it 4 months before it came out and we were sitting around going "fuck." We've never sat around that long. That's another cool thing about the Nitro deal, things have gotten a little more serious. When we were on BYO we didn't have to answer to anybody about anything. We did whatever, whenever, wherever.
B: Didn't you guys play a show with NOFX and Green Day at the Whiskey?
J: Yeah, I put on that show.
B: The day before the L.A. riots.
J: The day after... No, the day before.
B: I went to that show and I couldn't remember which Whiskey show.
J: That was a time long ago.
B: Who would've thought Green Day would be where they are today.
J: When I saw them they were really good. I had only heard a 7 inch they did and I didn't like it very much , but when I saw them live I knew there was something more to them. I was supposed to work the day after the riots, me and the bassist worked at K-Mart but we were out late at the show the night before. Then the riot happened and that place burned to the ground. If I had been working that day I might not be here today.



B: That's crazy you worked at that K-Mart.
J: Yeah, I watched it burn on t.v.
B: So, what do you think about Prop 215?
J: What's that one again?
B: Medical marijuana.
J: Oh yeah, that one. Well, i've been sober for 10 years so it doesn't affect me but whatever...
B: How could you work at a head shop being sober?
J: It wasn't that difficult to do it just reminded me of why I quit in the first place. I have nothing against pot smoking really it's just a lot of the activists for pot smoking are pretty funny . These activists who knew the owner would come in and they would tell me to have people sign this petition to legalize pot. And it's like that's not my deal, you can do whatever but don't try to make me do your dirty work. They would say,"but pot is environmentally sound, it has medicinal qualities and yada, yada, yada, but I know they don't give a fuck about anything except growing pot in their backyards, and I would tell them that and they would get so bummed out with me.

I'd like to thank Joe for the time he spent, nearly a half hour. Some of the questions I asked were for personal reasons, but remember it was curiosity that killed the cat. I saved the best questions for part 2. So here it is part 1 of the interview with Joe, the singer and spokesperson for Jugheads Revenge.

-Bruce Kolberg/Laurel Frances

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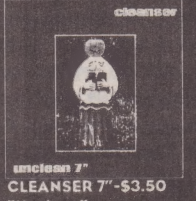

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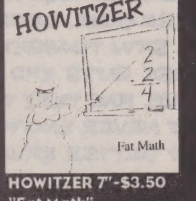

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Anastacia: Can I get a cocktail around here?

JIM: YOU CAN SHARE MINE. I HAVE A JACK AND COKE OR A BEER.
A: THAT JACK AND COKE IS WHAT I'M ALL ABOUT.

A: What's your beverage of choice?

J: PEPSI COLA.
A: Do you have any thing to say in regards to Flecher puking on KROQ's Loveline?

J: AS THE AUSTRALIANS SAY. "GOOD ON Y!" WHICH MEANS GOOD SHOW OR GOOD JOB.

A: Who are your favorite bands or musical influences?
J: MINOR THREAT. BLACK FLAG. CIRCLE JERKS. DESCENDENTS. BAD RELIGION. YOUTH BRIGADE

A: In five words, describe Pennywise philosophy.
J: OUR PHILOSOPHY IS. "DO WHATEVER THAT FUCK YOU WANT.""

A: Hey guy that's six words, your braking the rules.
J: YA. THAT'S BASICALLY IT. ENJOY YOURSELF AND LIVE LIFE TO IT'S FULLEST. AND THE MUSIC IS ALL ABOUT TRYING TO GET THAT MESSAGE ACROSS IN THE MOST PUNK WAY WE CAN.

PEN-
NYWISE
PENNY-

A: In the words of Shawn stern, what are you fighting for?
J: PEACE ON EARTH. THAT'S WHAT I'M FIGHTING FOR.

A: What characteristics do respect in your friends.
J: PEOPLE WHO ENJOY LIFE TO IT'S FULLEST WHILE THERE HERE. BECAUSE. AS EVIDENCE FROM THE SHOW WE SAW TONIGHT. IT'S ABOUT BRADLEY AND JASON. THOSE GUYS HAD A GOOD TIME WHILE THEY WERE ALIVE. AND THEY THOROUGHLY ENJOYED THEMSELVES. YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN IT'S ALL GOING TO END. SO YOU BETTER HAVE A GOOD TIME EVERY DAY. LIFE IS REALLY SHORT AND GETTING SHORTER EVERYDAY.

A: Do you have a new album coming out soon?
J: APRIL 22.
A: COOL. MY BIRTHDAYS IN APRIL. I'M AN ARIES.
J: I'M REALLY INTO THAT NOW. I NEVER THOUGHT SIGNS WERE TRUE UNTIL I GOT THE BIRTHDAY BOOK. THEN I REALIZED THAT SHIT'S FOR REAL.
~~~~~~~~~~Much Laughter~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

A: Which album is your personal favorite?
J: OUR FIRST ALBUM IS ALWAYS GOING TO BE THE ONE. BECAUSE WE WERE SO YOUNG AND STARTING OUT. ALSO BECAUSE WE WERE DOING IT FOR THE FUN OF IT.

A: Always do it for the stoke and not the money.
J: I COULDNT HAVE SAID IT BETTER MYSELF.

A: If you could only choose one between a skateboard, surfboard, or snowboard what would it be?
J: A SURFBOARD. NO QUESTION. A SKATEBOARD IS USED TO GET YOU TO THE SURF AND A SNOWBOARD IS USED WHEN YOUR WAITING TO SURF. HOWEVER. YOU CAN GET THE SAME STOKE FROM ALL THREE.
A: Can you give me a positive memory that Bradley left you with?
J: THAT HE WAS THE BEST VOCALIST THAT I'VE EVER HEARD.
A: So he touched you on a musical level?
J: YA. AND WHAT I CAN SAY ABOUT SUBLIME IS THAT THEY COULD MOVE BETWEEN ALL DIFFERENT TYPES OF MUSIC. THEY COULD PLAY PUNK. REGGAE. METAL. OPERA. OR WHATEVER. THEY COULD PULL IT OFF. THERE IS NO OTHER BAND THAT CAN DO THAT THE WAY SUBLIME DID. AND BRADLEY COULD BECAUSE HE WAS THE BEST.

A: Is there anyone who you would like to thank?
J: JASON MATTHEW THIRSK! JASON WAS OUR ORIGINAL BASS PLAYER. AND HE DIED THIS PAST YEAR. THERES SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO SAY ABOUT TONIGHTS SHOW. ALTHOUGH IT WAS FOR BRADLEY AND A REALLY GOOD CAUSE. THE GUYS IN PENNYWISE AND ALL OUR FANS EVERY WERE. THOUGHT OF IT ALSO AS A WAY TO COMMEMORATE JASON'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MUSIC SCENE. BRADLEY AND JASON SHOULD NEVER BE FORGOTTEN.

A: Please know that I respect you and I hope I'm leaving you with a positive first impression.
J: COOL! ABSOLUTELY!

-ANASTACIA

Final thought—Words cannot begin to justify the excitement I felt by getting the opportunity to meet Pennywise and interview front man Jim Of coarse, there was a mix up and I received the wrong press pass. However, Jim (last name Here) was quick to save me from my dilemma and granted me all access as though he was my guardian. At this time, shit started getting really good. Not only did I get to take my pictures from that stage. Unlike, all the rest of the media rats fighting for that perfect angle. I also got to sing "Bro Hyme" With the band and all there friends on stage. I'm sure I looked like a major jackass, butt I figured, "fuck it" I might never get a chance like this again. As tradition would have a bag of stickers were brought out to throw to the howling crowd of fans. I felt it was my obligation as a loser photographer to help those stickers to crowd smashed against the front barricade. So I did. After the show I conducted my interview, threw back a few cocktails and sang Sublimes, Garden Grove with Jim Who knew this would happen to my shitty ass life? Never in my life have I Had a evening like that one. I will always remember

PEN-
NYWISE
PEN-

Special Thanks: —Gina Davis @ Epitaph, Limo (Pennywise's' Manager) for putting up with my shit, Scott @ Skratch Magazine, Rachel cuz she's got skills, the random person that got me home safely. And of coarse, a big FUCK YOU to the people who left me at the Palladium.

-Anastacia
~~~~~~~~~~

MXPX Interview

Can you give us a brief history on the band? Who started the band and if there are any ex-members?

Tom: Mike, Yuri, and Andy started the band 4 years ago...Andy got kicked out 2 years ago, I'm in now...I'm Tom.

Any good or bad stories about being on Tooth & Nail Records?

Tom: Tooth and Nail has always been super to cool to us?

Can you guys clear the confusion about your religion and your music? And when did it start?

Tom: Our religion-We're all Christians. Our music, it started 4 years ago. We're just a band...nothing wierd here.

Which city or town in U.S. is MXPX most popular with the kids?

Tom: I don't know where were most popular...Either Seattle, Orange County, or St. Petersburg, Florida.

Who are your influences? And have you played with any? And how did that feel?

Tom: Our influences are the Descendents, All, Black FLag, and the Dead Milkmen. We've never played with any of them.

How would you describe your sound, music, style?

Tom: Basically, pop punk rock and roll.

Any run-ins with with the police, or any federal marshal?

Tom: Not really. We almost got arrested 2 or 3 times...Nothing to big.

What are you views on straight edge?

Tom: We're not straight edge, but we're not druggies either. I don't really care for the straight edge mentality, but some of my friends are and that's okay with me.

What do you have to say to those meat heads in the pit who start fights just because they can?

Tom: "knock it off! There is better places for you...Like the army."

In what direction do you see the band in 5 years? Who writes the songs and where does the inspiration come from?

Tom: I really don't know. I don't think about that much.

Tom: Mike writes the songs. The inspiration comes from life much.

Do you have a video?

Tom: Yes.

Has the label attemepted to get MTV airplay?

Tom: Yes, Tooth and Nail has.

What is the bands views or views on MTV?

Tom: I don't know. It's okay, I guess. I used to watch it all the time when I was younger.

Is it easier to get girls now that you are in a band?

Tom: No, it's actually harder...I'm almost never home.

Any of you have girlfriends? Why?

Tom: We all do because girls rule. That's why.

Still in school?

Tom: Graduated in '95.

Favorite sports?

Tom: Not really....Except for snowboarding and skating.

Favorite drugs? (including beer)

Tom: No drugs here.

Any favorite bands you would like to endorse on behalf of MXPX?

Tom: Blink-182....They're awesome! Dance Hall Crashers...They rock!

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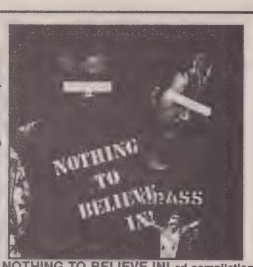

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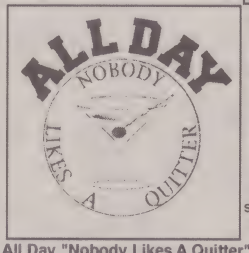

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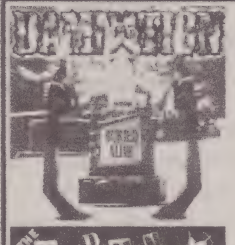

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CITIZEN FISH INTERVIEW 11/29

THE CRACK TEAM OF INVESTIGATIVE REPORTERS FROM SKRATCH MAGAZINE FINALLY HUNTED DOWN THE ELUSIVE CITIZEN FISH TO FIND OUT WHAT SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES THEY'RE UP TO THESE DAYS. WITH THE NEW RELEASE "THIRST" GARNERING CRITICAL ACCLAIM (FOR GOOD REASON), THESE VETERAN BRITISH ROCKERS LAUNCHED A SUCCESSFUL US TOUR IN THE FALL OF 1996. WE FINALLY NAILED JASPER (BASS) AND EX-SUBHUMAN DICK LUCAS (VOX) AT THE FOOTHILL WHERE THEY PLAYED AN ALL AGES SHOW WITH NAKED AGGRESSION.

SKRATCH: HOW WAS THE SHOW TONIGHT?

JASPER: FANTASTIC.. ESPECIALLY "DIVIDING LINE", THE LAST SONG. WE WERE SUPPOSED TO STOP PLAYING AT 10:00, AND THE SOUND SYSTEM WENT OFF....THE CROWD WANTED TO HERE MORE MUSIC, WE WANTED TO PLAY MORE MUSIC.....THEY TURNED IT BACK ON AND IT WAS LIKE A SPECIAL MOMENT.

SKRATCH: YOU GUYS STARTED IN OCTOBER? HOW HAS THE TOUR GONE?

JASPER: YES, IN NEW YORK. WE PLAYED THE FIRST 17 DATES WITH AVAIL...THEY'RE FANTASTIC., WE REALLY GOT TO KNOW THEM AS PEOPLE. THE SHOWS HAVE BEEN MORE LIKE EVENTS WITH THE AK PRESS BOOK STORE.....

SKRATCH: YEA, TELL ME A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THAT. THEY HAD A TON OF LITERATURE OUT THERE?

JASPER: WELL CRAIG HAS BEEN ALONG FOR THE WHOLE TOUR, WITH ALL KINDS OF POLITICAL LITERATURE. ITS BEEN GREAT...WE WOULD HAVE BANDS ON STAGE AND THE BOOKSTORE IN BACK. AND ALSO THE FIRST 17 DAYS WE HAD THIS MOBILE DISCO, TRIBAL WAR, WHICH WAS LIKE THIS MOBILE RECORD STORE, WITH THOUSANDS OF DIFFERENT RECORDS, DIFFERENT STYLES AND ALL. WE'D ROLL INTO THESE TOWNS WITH 17 PEOPLE ENTOURAGES.... AND THEN WE FINISHED WITH AVAIL IN INDIANAPOLIS FIVE DAYS AGO. NOW WE'RE ON OUR OWN, DOING SHOWS....

SKRATCH: KINDA LIKE A FREEFORM TOUR...

JASPER: (LAUGHING) YEA, YEA. WE'VE GOT ABOUT 7 SHOWS LEFT...WE'RE HEADING TOWARDS VENTURA, (STUMBLING OVER THE WEIRD PRONUNCIATION), SAN LUIS OBISPO, SONORA, SAN FRANSISCO ...SACRAMENTO....THEN BACK TO ENGLAND.

SKRATCH: HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU GUYS TOURED THE US?

JASPER: NINE.

SKRATCH: NINE TIMES. WHAT ARE THE CHANGES THAT YOU GUYS HAVE SEEN IN THE SHOWS FROM THE FIRST TOUR THROUGH THIS TOUR?

JASPER: I THINK THAT THE FIRST TOUR THAT THERE WAS DEFINITELY MORE, UMMM, NOT AT ALWAYS, BUT AT SOME SHOWS, THERE WOULD BE PEOPLE WHO WOULD WANT TO MAKE TROUBLE, AND THEY WOULD USUALLY RULE THE ROOM. TRY AND CONTROL THE ROOM. THE DIFFERENCE, I'D SAY TODAY, IS THAT THE PEOPLE WHO COME TO THE SHOWS ARE MORE, LIKE SELF POLICING...THEY HAVE MORE EMPOWERMENT TOWARDS SORTING PROBLEMS OUT. WHICH I THINK IS A BIG DIFFERENCE OVER THE FIVE OR SIX YEARS THAT WE'VE BEEN TOURING AMERICA.

SKRATCH: DO YOU FEEL LIKE PEOPLE ARE MORE AWARE OF WHAT CITIZEN FISH IS TRYING TO SAY IN YOUR SONGS AND WHAT THE BAND IS ALL ABOUT?

JASPER: HMMM....I DON'T KNOW. I MEAN I GET A LOT OF POSITIVE FEEDBACK FROM PEOPLE, BUT YOU NEVER KNOW HOW YOUR OWN THING IS WHEN YOUR IN IT....I MEAN PEOPLE ARE PRETTY TUNED IN, WHICH IS THE SOLVE OF THE WORDS, AND THEN THE TUNE THAT YOUR TUNED INTO IS....A KINDA OF ....WE HAVE E SOME IDEAS TO MAYBE SHARE WITH PEOPLE....AND ITS LIKE WE'VE PUT THERE SOME POSSIBILITIES TO SHARE....

SKRATCH: ....WHAT'S THIS? WE'RE JOINED NOW BY CITIZEN FISH SINGER DICK LUCUS...

DICK: (LETTING OUT A LONG SIGH AS HE TAKES A SEAT) YES, THE MAD RUSHER ABOUT...'IS THE MOST HECTIC AFTER GIG EXPERIENCE OF THIS WHOLE TOUR..VIDEO, INTERVIEWS....

JASPER: YEA, THIS IS REALLY WEIRD...WHY CAN'T THIS BE SHARED OVER A WHOLE YEAR....I MEAN LIKE WHEN WE GO HOME IT'LL BE REALLY BORING, ISN'T IT?

DICK: NOT ON TOUR, WHERE ITS CONSISTENTLY MANIC... THAT'S WHY WE GO ON TOUR, YOU SEE? THATS WHERE ORDINARY ROUTINE PAYS OFF BY THE EXCITEMENT OF THE PEOPLE TURNING OUT...YOU SEE THE ROUTINE IS THE WRITING LETTERS BACK TO ALL THE PEOPLE QUITE A LOT OF, SORT OF, THE DAY TO DAY ROUTINE OF DOING THE MAIL ORDER THING. ITS ALL ABOUT WHAT YOU PUT INTO IT, IF YOU DON'T DO THIS ONE THING YOU WON'T GET ANY FEEDBACK...ITS SORT OF A COMIC THING, A BIT REDEMPTIVE....

JASPER: ... DEFINITELY, DEFINITELY....ITS SORT OF LIFE'S RICH CYCLE OF WHAT YOU PUT IN, YOU GET OUT.....

SKRATCH: SO YOU GUYS KEEP IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH YOUR FANS?

JASPER: I THINK SO. I LIKE TO TALK TO PEOPLE....SO, YOU KNOW, ITS LIKE YOU HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH SOMEONE, LIKE YOURSELF, AND I'M GETTING TO KNOW YOU; FIVE MINUTES AGO IS LIKE ITS... "HI MEL." AND NOW ITS LIKE I'M GETTING TO KNOW A BIT ABOUT YOU.

SKRATCH: THE WORD ON THE STREET THAT I'VE HEARD IS THAT "THIRST" IS THE BEST CD BY YOU GUYS YET. HOW'S THE RESPONSE BEEN AND WHAT MAKES THIS LATEST EFFORT DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHERS?

DICK: THANKS. SOME OF THE SONGS, I THINK, ARE MORE INSTANTLY CATCHY. A LOT OF OUR SONGS, IN THE PAST HAVE NOT BEEN SO EASY TO CATCH, THE SORT WHERE YOU THING THAT YOU HAVE TO LISTEN TO, TO GET INTO, UH, WHEREAS IF YOU JUST GAVE IT A CURSORY LISTEN TO...THE SONG MOVES ALL OVER THE PLACE, AND ITS LIKE, WHERE'S THE CHORUS AND SO ON. THIS ONES GOT SOME CHORUSES ON IT...WE DON'T DO CHORUSES MUCH...

JASPER: ..THEN AGAIN I RESPECT SOMEONE WHO TELLS ME THE FIRST ONE WAS THE BEST EVER, CAUSE ITS UP TO THE PERSON TO TELL US WHAT THEY THINK...SO REALLY THERE'S NO TRUTH OR FACT WHICH SAYS THIS IS THE BEST RECORD WE'VE EVER A- TALL.

DICK: YEAH , WELL WE THOUGHT IT WAS THE BEST ONE...

JASPER: (PAUSES)....UMMM, YEA, WELL I CAN ONLY GET A PERSPECTIVE ON OUR RECORD AFTER ABOUT THREE YEARS....

SKRATCH: HAVE YOU GUYS HAD A CHANCE TO LISTEN TO MANY BANDS YOU'VE PLAYED WITH? ANY OF THE LOCAL SKA BANDS?

JASPER: WE'VE PLAYED WITH LOTS OF BANDS....HEAPS OF BANDS OUT IN CORONA A..I CAN'T REMEMBER ALL THE NAMES...THE BEST BEING BIBLICAL PROOF OF UFO'S.....A THREE PIECE BAND WITH A SORT OF HEAVY, INSTRUMENTAL SORT OF....WELL, WORDS FAIL TO DESCRIBE THE MUSIC....THEY WERE FANTASTIC...

DICK: WHO WAS THAT ONE GREAT SKA BAND IN CORONA? THEY THOUGHT THEY WERE AWFUL CAUSE NO ONE REALLY GOT INTO MUCH BUT THEY WERE GREAT...

JASPER: HOW ABOUT THE BAND WE PLAYED WITH IN PRESCOTT....NEXT TO THAT DIRT TRACK AND THE RODEO....SAM THE BUTCHER..

DICK: YES, SAM THE BUTCHER, THEY HAD A THING, DIDN'T THEY?

SKRATCH: THE REASON I ASK, IS THAT YOU HEAR A LOT OF SKA BANDS TODAY PLAYING FUN, CATCHY, POP TUNES...AND THAT'S ABOUT IT, I MEAN THERE' S A PLACE FOR THAT TOO, BUT YOU GUYS....

JASPER: WELL WE'RE NOT VERY GOOD AT PLAYING

SKA, WHICH IS THE OLD THING. WE JUST MAKE THIS NOISE THAT WE LIKE.

SKRATCH: RIGHT, I MEAN THE SKA INFLUENCE I HEAR IN YOUR MUSIC IS MORE OF A TWO TONE THING...IT GOES BACK TO THE DAYS, AND THERE SEEMS TO BE A LOT OF THAT HISTORY WHICH IS LOST ON SOME OF THE YOUNGER BANDS...

JASPER: WELL, I LIKE THE IDEA WHEN SOME ONE CAN GO OUT AND WRITE AN APPROXIMATION OF SOME MUSIC, AND IT TURNS OUT SO WRONG THAT ITS ACTUALLY QUITE GOOD....

DICK: THERE WAS ONE REVIEW OF US IN ONE FANZINE , I THINK IT WAS ON THE EAST COAST THAT BASICALLY SAID WE WERE A REAL BAD ATTEMPT TO SOUND LIKE TWO TONE MUSIC, THAT HE'D RATHER LISTEN TO THE SPECIALS INSTEAD....BUT I DON'T REALLY THINK THAT'S THE POINT....WE DON'T ATTEMPT TO SOUND LIKE THAT. THATS JUST COINCIDENCE OBSERVED BY THOSE WHO WEREN'T THERE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

SKRATCH: WELL, BACK THEN THERE WAS SO MUCH SHIT GOING ON....BRIGHTON, AND THE WHOLE TWO TONE MOVEMENT...

JASPER: IT WAS HARD DAYS; THE TWO TONE MOVEMENT WERE PLAYING TO REALLY VIOLENT CROWDS, THEY WERE SINGING ABOUT UNITY AND THE CROWDS WERE FIGHTING, I MEAN THAT WAS THE GRIM REALITY.

DICK: AND THE TWO TONE BANDS WERE THE FIRST BANDS TO START SINGING ABOUT RACISM AS WELL.

JASPER: THERE WERE HARDLY ANY ANTI-RACIST PUNK SONGS GOING ABOUT, IT WAS THE TWO TONE BANDS THAT TRIED TO BRING IT ALL IN BECAUSE THEY HAD THE BLACK INFLUENCE...THEY WERE CHALLENGED AS MUCH AS PUNK ROCK WAS...

SKRATCH: WHAT'S IT LIKE IN YOUR OPINION, TO WRITE SONGS TODAY WITHOUT THE CONVENT, EVIL FIGURE HEADS OF SAY, RONALD REAGAN OR MARGARET THATCHER ? IS IT HARDER TO GET SOME OF POLITICAL MESSAGES THROUGH?

JASPER: I THINK THAT IT WON'T WORK ONLY IF PEOPLE BELIEVE THESE CHARACTERS REPRESENT THE ENTIRE STRUCTURE OF THE POLITICS THEY'RE LEADING, WHICH I DON'T THINK ANYONE IS DUMB ENOUGH TO THINK. JUST BECAUSE JOHN MAJORS IS A WIMPY GUY OR BILL CLINTON PLAYS THE BLOODY SAXOPHONE THAT SUDDENLY THESE POLITICS ARE SUDDENLY ECO-FRIENDLY. WHILE IT TRUE THAT THERE WERE MORE WARS DURING BUSH, REAGAN AND THATCHER... OR WERE THERE?

DICK: I DON'T THINK THE WARS ACROSS THE WORLD HAVE SLOWED ANY.

SKRATCH: IT ALMOST SEEMS THAT WE'RE IN THIS ERA OF BENIGN FASCISM...

JASPER: YEA, I THOUGHT THAT WAS WHAT YOU WERE AIMING AT...THE SITUATION IN ENGLAND IS SUCH THAT THERE ARE ALL THESE NEW POLITICAL SCANDALS, THAT ARE ABSOLUTELY OUTRAGEOUS, APPEARING IN THE PRESS EVERY WEEK, AND JUST A COUPLE YEARS AGO THAT ALL THIS INFORMATION WAS NEVER KNOWN... AND THERE ARE SO MANY THAT NO ONE IS REALLY REACTING ANYMORE....

DICK: WELL, CHRIST, ITS OBVIOUS THAT SO MANY JUST DON'T CARE ABOUT POLITICIANS ANYMORE. LOOK AT THE LAST ELECTION IN THIS COUNTRY WHERE LESS THAN HALF OF THE PEOPLE DIDN'T EVEN VOTE, WHICH IS EITHER A REALLY A VERY GOOD THING, CAUSE IT MEANS THAT THEY 'LL GET OFF THEIR ASS AND CREATE THEIR OWN SORT OF LIFESTYLE AND POLITICS OR IT COULD MEAN THAT THEY CAN'T TRUST ANYTHING OR ANYONE ANYMORE CAUSE THEY'VE BEEN SHOUTING FOR SO LONG....

JASPER: ...I THINK USUALLY THE BEST LINE OF ATTACK IS TO BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE LOTS OF PEOPLE WHO MIGHT SHARE ONE'S OWN THOUGHTS, YOU KNOW, IT S NOT LIKE ONE IS OUTSIDER WITH THESE LIKE, SUSPICIONS OF GOVERNMENT. THERE ARE LOTS AND LOTS OF PEOPLE WITH THE SAME BELIEFS...

SKRATCH: SO THERE'S PLENTY OF THINGS FOR YOU GUYS STILL TO WRITE ABOUT....STILL A LOT OF REAL GOOD REASONS FOR DOING YOUR MUSIC AND THE THINGS YOU GUYS DO...

JASPER: OH DEFINITELY. MUSICS INFLUENCES PEOPLE ON A PERSONAL LEVEL, NOT NECESSARILY BY TRYING TO CHANGE THEIR PERSONAL POLITICS OR ANYTHING AS SOPHISTICATED AS ALL THAT....ITS ABOUT INFLUENCING PEOPLE.

SKRATCH: AND ALL YOUR SHOWS ARE ALL AGES, AREN'T THEY?

JASPER: YEA, ALL SHOWS ARE NO MORE THAN $6.00.

SKRATCH: SO WHAT'S IN THE WORKS, NOW FOR CITIZEN FISH, OR DO YOU THINK THAT FAR AHEAD.

JASPER: G O AHEAD, DICK. I'M GOING TO SCOOT TOWARDS THE BAR....I GET NERVOUS WHEN THE BAR KEEP MAKES MOTIONS LIKE HE'S GOING TO CLOSE.

DICK: WELL, WE ALWAYS SIT DOWN IN JANUARY, AND FIGURE OUT WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO, AND AH, WE'LL RECORD SOME NEW TRACKS AROUND THE FIRST COUPLE OF MONTHS IN THE YEAR, REHEARSE AND DO SOME OCCASIONAL GIGS TO SEE HOW THEY SOUND LIVE, GET IN TO RECORD AN ALBUM BY APRIL OR MAY SO THAT WE CAN GET INTO SOME SUMMARY TOURS BEFORE JULY, BECAUSE JULY AND AUGUST ARE BAD FOR SHOWS IN EUROPE BECAUSE EVERYONE'S ON VACATION AND LOTS OF PLACES SIMPLY CLOSE. NOT TO DO SO MANY SHOWS THAT WE DON'T HAVE ANY TIME AT HOME, BUT ENOUGH SO THAT WE GET TO AMERICA, AND EUROPE AND THE WHOLE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM INCLUDING SCOTLAND, WALES AS WELL AS ENGLAND.

SKRATCH: WHERE IS YOUR HOME BASE?

DICK: WE LIVE IN BATH, A SMALL CITY, VERY PICTURESQUE, CLOSE TO THE COUNTRYSIDE.

SKRATCH: SO HOW DOES "THIRST" DIFFER FROM YOUR EARLIEST EFFORTS?

DICK: WELL, THE VERY FIRST ALBUM HAD A DIFFERENT GUITARIST, AND WAS RECORDED IN TWO DIFFERENT STUDIOS, AND WAS MIXED RATHER QUICKLY....IT MIGHT HAVE SUFFERED BECAUSE OF THAT...SOME OF THE TRACKS ARE REALLY GOOD, I REALLY WISH WE COULD RERECORD IT...SOME OF THE SONGS LIKE "YOUTH" OR "FACE OFF" ARE SO MUCH SLOWER THAN ANY TIME WE'VE EVER PLAYED THEM LIVE, THAT IT MAKES ME CRINGE. THE LAST ALBUM WE HAD ALEX BENDER DOING HIS TRUMPETS WHICH MAKES A LOT OF DIFFERENCE....I THINK I'M SINGING MORE THAN SHOUTING, I'M CALMING DOWN MORE OR LEARNING TO SING FROM THE DIAPHRAGM MORE , SORT OF A TECHNICAL NOTE FOR YOU SINGERS OUT THERE.....AND ITS MORE OF A POLISHED SOUND, I DON'T IT LOSES THE EXCITEMENT BUT IT SOUNDS VERY GOOD...WE FOUND AN ENGINEER WHO REALLY LIKES US WHICH IS THE BEST THING YOU CAN HAVE IN THE STUDIO.

JASPER: (WHO RETURNS) YOU TALKING THE POLISHED S SOUND OF OUR LAST ALBUM? AH, WELL , I RECKON FOR OUR NEXT I WANT TO GET A BIT MORE SPACE, GAMBLE AND CHANCE A BIT...GO FOR A BIT OF THE UNDER POLISHED SOUND.....

DICK: WE DON'T AIM FOR A POLISHED SOUND....THEY JUST TURN OUT THAT WAY.

JASPER: OH , WELL I JUST FEEL SIGNIFICANTLY THAT OUR NEXT RECORD WILL SOUND VERY DIFFERENT. YOU DON'T WANT TO REPEAT...

DICK: WELL, I DON'T KNOW. I THINK "THIRST" IS MORE LIKE , THE YOUNGER TWIN OF "MILLINEA MADNESS", I PUT THOSE TWO ALBUMS SEPARATE FROM THE OTHER THREE. I DON'T KNOW WHY...

JASPER: WELL CONSIDERING OUR FIRST ALBUM, TWO THIRDS OF IT WAS ME DOING A DEMO TAPE, THEN AT SOME POINT DICK GOING, "WHY NOT MAKE IT INTO A RECORD"...AND AFTER THAT ITS LIKE, FANTASTIC AND EVERYONE GOES...OKAY, LETS DO IT.

SKRATCH: THANKS GUYS....APPRECIATE THE TIME...GOOD LUCK.

DICK: THANK YOU...

JASPER: THAT WAS FUN. ..TALKING ABOUT IDEAS AND ALL INSTEAD OF JUST BASS LINES AND ALL.....

- MEL TORMENT

Interview with 1134 at The Barn Dec.11, 1997

S: What are your names and what do you play?
Matt (Kruck Bubble) - Vocals

Barry - Drums
Korby (Yorby Yoo-hoo Mars Bars) - Guitar
Brian- Guitar
Reed- Guitar

S: So how long has II34 been together?
M: Two and a half years.

S: How old are you guys and how long have each of you been playing?

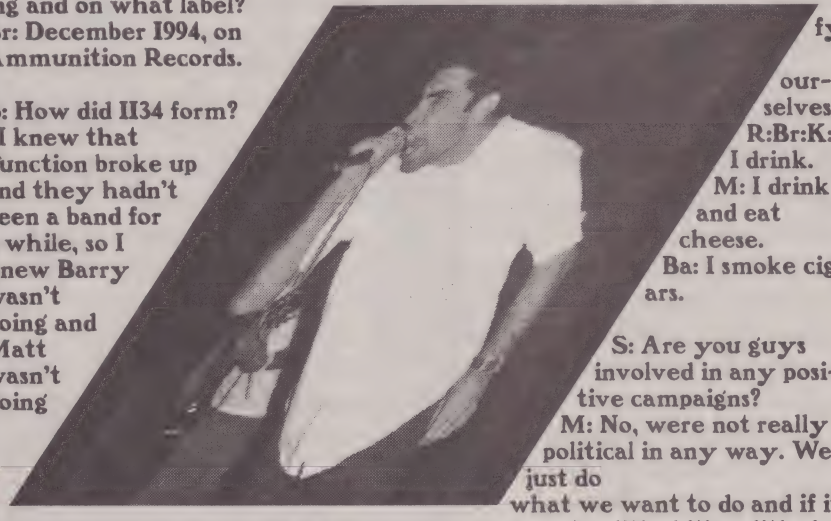
Ba: 20, since we started.

K: I9, Playing guitar 7 and a half years, bass 4 and a half.
Br: I9, Almost 8 years guitar.

R: I9, 7 years.
M: 23, since we started. I used to sing in the front row does that count?

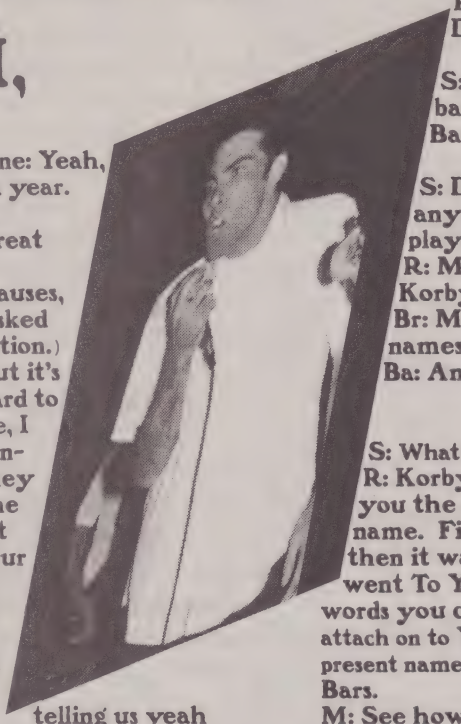
S: When was your first recording and on what label?
Br: December I994, on Ammunition Records.

S: How did II34 form?
: I knew that Function broke up and they hadn't been a band for a while, so I knew Barry wasn't doing and Matt wasn't doing anything so I asked. Matt if he wanted to do a band.



M: We all hung out together.

S: How long have you been with New Age? M: About a year.Everyone: Yeah, a little over a year.



S: Do they treat you good?
(Everyone pauses, laughs, and asked for next question.)
M: It's cool but it's just really hard to get stuff done, I guess it's financially, and they don't have the money to get stuff done. Our record was recorded in July and it still ain't out. They keep telling us yeah another month, for release, but then they go ahead and put stuff out of bands that weren't even on the label at that time. Their like taking our money, and we just keep getting

pushed back down.

S:Are any of you guys Straight Edge?
Br: We don't really like to classify ourselves.
R:Br:K: I drink.
M: I drink , and eat cheese.
Ba: I smoke cigars.

S: Are you guys involved in any positive campaigns?
M: No, were not really political in any way. We just do what we want to do and if it comes out political it's political.
Br: I once swerved and popped my tire for a dog.

S: Who do you guys usually play with?
Ba: We play with Suppression Swing a lot.
R: Collateral Damage.

S: Who's in another band?
Ba: I was in Blackspot.

S: Does anyone have any hobbies outside of playing?
R: Making up names for Korby, and Matt.
Br: Me and Reed make up names for them.
Ba: And I just laugh.

S: What are some of the names?
R: Korby Hocks. OK I'll give you the evolution of Korby's name. First it was Korby, then it was Yorby, then it went To Yoo-hoo and any 2 words you can put together and attach on to Yoo-hoo, so now his present name is Yoo-hoo Mars Bars.
M: See how stupid? See what I have to put up with?

S: What are some of the names for Matt?
Br: He's just any two syllables you could put together.
Ba: His name is En Right.
R: Yeah, he's just any 2 words, his real name is Kruck Bubble.

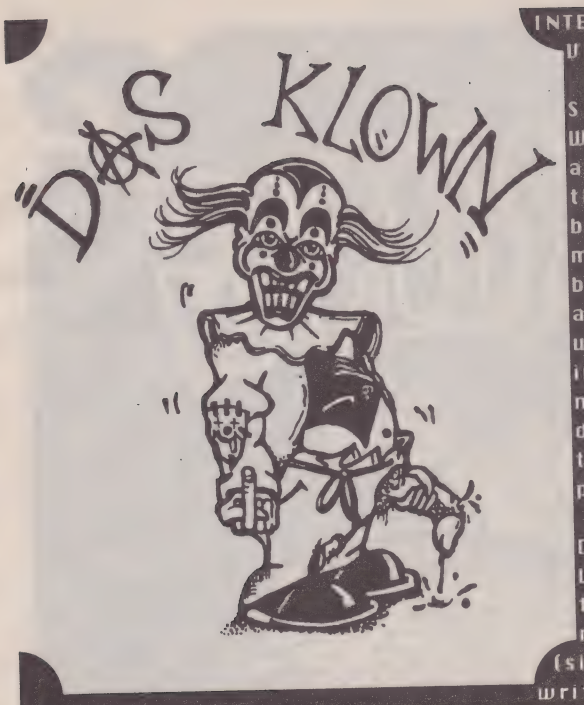
S: Where is the furthest you've played?
Br: Hawaii.
R: Either East Coast or Hawaii.
M: We just got back from Hawaii yesterday.

S: How was Hawaii?
M: Probably our best out of town show.

S: Was there a scene in Hawaii?
Br: There were a lot of Hard Core kids there, but they are bummed cause they don't get a lot of shows.
All: Would like to say Josh Paul Brian Benton Rules. (flew them to Hawaii).

S: These guys are really cool guys, so if they ever dog you, like they've dogged me before in H.B., or at shows take the time and talk to them cause they aren't the Assholes they may appear to be.

-Sasha Liege



INTERVIEW

S: Who are the band members and what instruments do they play?

DK: Well, there's me (singer, writer, asshole klown), Jimbo - guitar, Justin - drums, and our newest member, Nate -- 15 years old, 150 IQ, Mohican - bass player. We're sounding better than ever!

S: What's your favorite beer?

DK: Budweiser, Shaefer, with a shot of Tabasco, Busch, Lucky Lager or when I had money, Corona with a lemon smashed in it, ummm . . .

S: What is your favorite non-alcoholic drink?

I've tried a bunch, but I'd have to say O'Doul's is my favorite.

S: What's you're best drunken story?

DK: There's so many! Probably the night I went to the Rose Parade one year and passed out in the street with one of my old Limey friends. Well, later that night, I woke up freezing in his urine. That motherfucker had pissed his pants and it was all over me. So the next night we were partying at Funland, and he happened to pass out in the living room with his mouth open. So I decided I'd pay him back by pissing in it! He almost choked to death, and it was funnier than hell. I used to really get crazy. I eventually got clean or I'd be dead by now.

S: What are your favorite bands?

DK: I really only like the old stuff and don't feel like naming a bunch of bands. But as far as newer bands, I think they are mostly LAME, although I do like the Suspects. It's very bad the way the so-called punk rock scene has changed. It all sounds like a collage of mixed-up garbage to me. I'll be glad when this whole poopy pop, ska, funk, reggae stuck on NOFX shit is over. Don' get me wrong, I enjoy them every now and then. But it sucks when 98% of the bands you play with sound just like 'em. This music thing has really gone downhill. All these trendy motherfuckers want to do is CASH IN. Whatever happened to what it was supposed to be about in the first place. Being different, going against the Grain! Fuck 'em.

S: What is your most memorable show?

DK: I guess you mean our shows. Well, probably when we played this little shit hole in Texas and the promoter had a cow when I dropped the microphone, so I proceeded to make an ass out of him while we were playing. We actually made a song about him ont he spot, and he was freaking out. People were rolling. We called it "Billy Bad Ass" and later recorded it on a single and mailed it to him. It was great!

S: What's the #1 record label you can think of?

DK: I think they all suck! It's like all these little fish sucking off the big fish and no one wants to take a chance! They're so concerned with kissing each other's asses that it's ridiculous.

S: What's in the future for Das Klown?

DK: That's a good question!

S: You're on know records right? How's that going?

It's great! We're friends, and I trust him. Hopefully, the label will grow and more opportunity will come our way, such as touring, stomping down the enemies and exposing the truth, ha ha!

S: What's your favorite club to play at?

DK: Nowhere in particular. A good show is a good show! Anywhere there's a pit and they appreciate what we are doing . .

S: What are your favorite hobbies?

DK: Music, primate collectibles, tattoos, pornography and klowning around. Hi mom!

-Scott Presant

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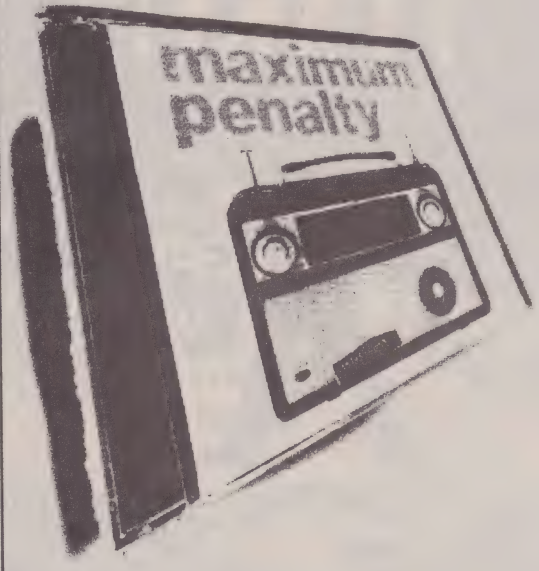

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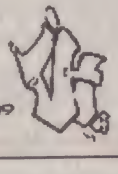

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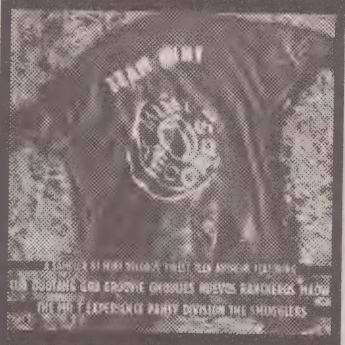

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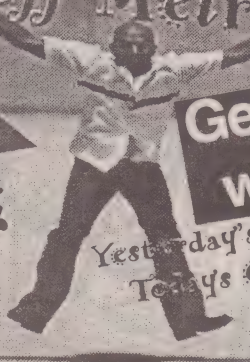

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Interview with Scott of Despair by phone,
Feb. 5, 1997

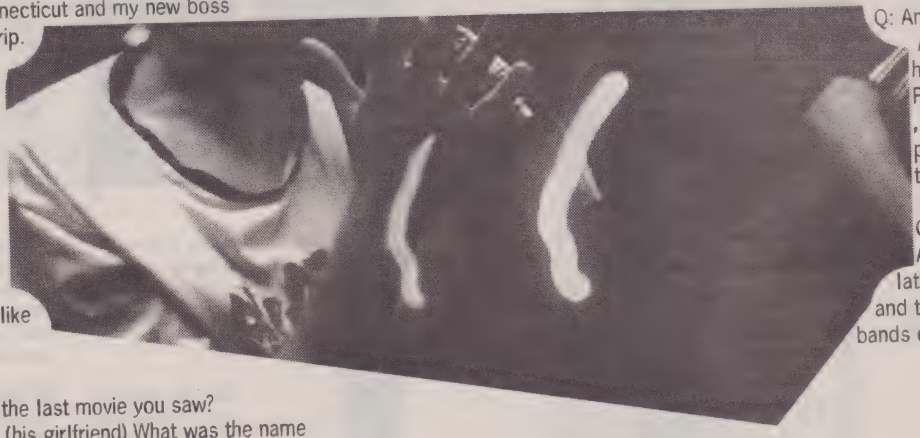
despair

Q: Hello is Scott there?
A: This is him.

Q: How was work?
A: It was boring.

Q: Why what do you do?
A: I work at a telemarketing company.

Q: Do you like your job?
A: I would say yeah but my old boss moved to Connecticut and my new boss has a power trip.



Q: Do you have any hobbies outside of playing?
A: I like watching hockey.
Q: Ice or Roller ?
A: Ice. I also like going to the movies.

Q: What was the last movie you saw?
A: Hey Dana, (his girlfriend) What was the name of that movie we saw? "One Fine Day."

Q: Was that a cheesy love story?
A: Actually it was better than I thought it would be. It started of with a song by Natalie Merchant and me and my girlfriend like her a lot.

Q: Who writes most of your songs ?
A: I'd say our guitarist, cause he thinks of an idea, plays it, we all like it, then it's taken home and I try to make up vocals to go along. We used to be able towrite a song in one day, but now it takes us like two weeks. We put a lot more thought into our music now.

Q: Whose idea was it to put that song at the end of "As We Bleed."
A: It was an old S.T. song , and were all pretty much down to Earth guys except for Jesse. He's pretty out there. So we were yelling Jesse. It was pretty cool we were just messing around. I actually played drums and Jesse sang vocals.

Q: Is anyone in Despair Straight Edge?
A: I'm not, the only one who really is, is Lee. He sings every once and a while for us. He sang one song on this album and one on the last.

Q: How old are you?
A: I'm 23, the rest are between 18-23.

Q: Is anyone political in any way?
A: No, Matt's into that.

Q: Why, what does Matt believe?
A: He's into that work hard ,should be in charge (thing). I try to keep our songs related to the Hard Core kids, stuff that's happened in my life and my experiences.

Q: Do you have any tattoos?
A: No, our bass player is into that.

Q: How would you describe Despair's music?
A: Hard Core! Aggressive! In Your Face!, a little heavy.

Q: Any tours planned? Past and present.
A: We went to Europe last summer and were planning to go again in August?

Q: With who?
A: Spawn. HateBreed called us and asked us to maybe go on like a 52 day, but that's kind of a long time, but it really sounds good, and HateBreed is one of my favorite bands right now.

Q: Are you planning on coming over here to the West Coast?
A: I'd really like to. We are planning maybe this summer or next. No one really ever lets us know what's going on over there.

Q: Record labels over here are pretty snobby, but I guarantee if you guys came out here you'd have a good turn out.

Q: Anything cool happen lately?
A: We toured for three weeks over here and we played a big show with: Path of Resistance, VOD, HateBreed ,Turmoil, Brothers Keeper, and a couple of other bands. It was our first time there, I couldn't believe it.

Q: Any new stuff coming out?
A: a new song coming out on a compilation, with Snapcase, Envy, and more and they are all new songs by all the bands on New Direction Records.

-Sasha

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GROVER'S HEADACHE

INTERVIEW:

Mike - vocals, trombone
Andrew - drums
Victor - bass
Alan - guitar
Chris - trumpet
Brent - xas
Max - trumpet
S:SKRATCH

S: What bands do you like playing with?

Alan: Any band -- alt, punk, ska, polka; it's all cool to us.

S: I understand you're getting away from the ska thing.

Alan: Ska is kinda getting cliche.

Victor: No, it's not that. We're trying to experiment.

Andrew: ...trying to incorporate different styles.
Alan; I listen to a lot of different types of music. I try to bring that to rehearsal and share all my ideas.

S: About your lyrics. You sing a lot about girls and . . .

Andrew: Masturbation.

S: The lack of getting girls. Is that kind of a joke or .... ?

Mike: Unfortunately, it's the truth. I don't get girls that often.

S: But, you see if you say that, now you'll get a lot of chicks. They'll read this and go "oh."

Mike: Yeah, they'll feel sorry for me.

S: Tell me about your song "Mall Girls" . . .

Mike: Mall girls are the most beautiful girls on the planet. It's the girl you see at the mall that turns your head. You gotta do everything -- put mirrors on your shoes.....

S: Any good stories about mall girls?

Mike: Okay, we were standing outside the mall. I think Alan was liking a girl. We saw a gorgeous mall girl walking into the mall and Alan 's like, "I'm thirsty."

Alan: Our heads were in sync watching that girl.

S: Where are you guys from?

All: Orange County.

S: Are you a pro-pot band?

Andrew: I think it varies.
Mike: There will be cops at my door.

Brent: Not so much speed and stuff, just ganja.
LAUGHS---------

S: Tell me about your new songs.

Alan: Our new songs are definitely showing what Grover's Headache is about.

S: I think your horn section really stands out. How long have you been playing the horns?
Brent. I've been playing sax for 10 years.
Chris: 9 years.
Mike: I've been playing an instrument for 11 years.
S:What instrument is that?
LAUGHTER

Mike:If you want to include that, it's been a lot longer.
S:What about Max (newest member)?
Alan: That guy's been playing for awhile.

S: What is your new stuff like? How is it different from the old stuff?

Alan:I guess it's us developing our new sound. There still is a ska feel, but more punk and alternative.

S:Next best thing for Grover's?

Brent: Becoming millionaires and having tons of women clawing at us.

Andrew: Brent smoking more ganja than he already does.

Mike: Actually, I think being an Orange County band -- we need to play Orange County more.

Alan:It's probably because of the lack of all-ages venues. We'd like to play more in O.C. instead of driving to San Bernardino or Santa Barbara.

Andrew: I'd personally like to see management. More people at our shows.

S: Anything else?

Mike: Come see us, we're really not that bad. Come check us out. Give us a chance.
Alan: Hopefully, we'll start a bigger following.

Mike: I must bring up our line-up change. Over the year we change a lot and got better.

Alan:We looked at where we were and where we wanted to go and made a few decisions about the line-up -- I think though it was great having them in the band . . I think now everything's going well and things will.

Andrew: Actually practicing today, we noticed how much cleaner and tighter it sounded. That's what we're shooting for.

Mike: It's like breaking up with a chick.

Alan: We're all still good friends.

Andrew: It's nothing personal.

Alan: Alex Guillen, Jason Lacoss, Rich Iwason, Kyle Martin. They're all our great friends and hope they will still remain friends.

S: When was the line-up change?

Andrew: Back in November. Other three were recently.

Andrew: I hope our fans don't hate us for it.

S:Thanks, guys.

Band: We are still around.

Andrew: Thanks a lot for your support everyone.

-Scott Presant

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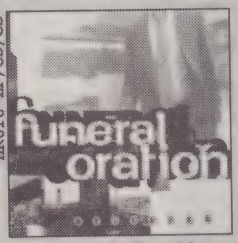

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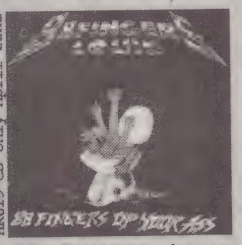

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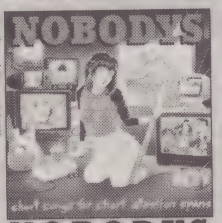

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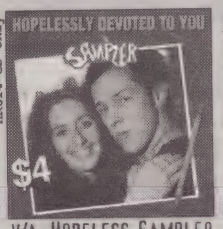

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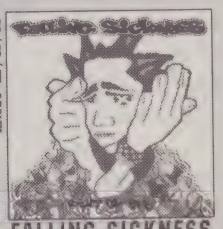

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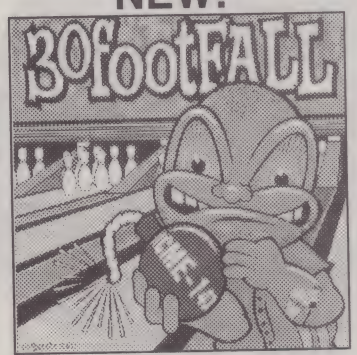

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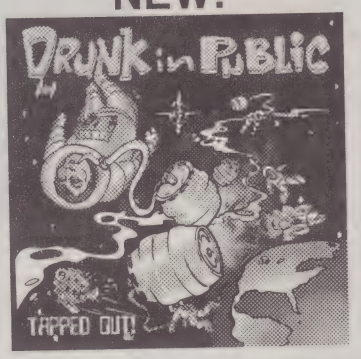

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INTERVIEW WITH MOBTOWN
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SKRATCH: Would you like to introduce yourselves?
ALEX: MY name is Alex, and I'm the drummer of Mobtown. We got Malike Moore on lead vocals, Evie Long on backup vocals, lead vocals and trumpet. EVIE: I do alot! (laughter) I'm busy. ALEX: Pepe on percussion and steel pan, Wally on guitar, Jeff on bass, Robert on trumpet, Chris on baritone sax, Brian Wallace on tenor sax, and Gary on trombone.

SKRATCH: So there are ten people in your band.
EVIE: Yeah, 10 people right now, but we are looking for a keyboard player. Be sure to mention that MOBTOWN NEEDS A KEYBOARD PLAYER!

SKRATCH: How long has Mobtown been together?
WALLY: Five years. ALEX: Actually five or six years. February 28th is our birthday.
WALLY: Yeah, but with this lineup it has been three years.

SKRATCH: Who writes most of the songs?
WALLY: I write alot of the songs, but the whole band really compose the songs. ALEX: We go off ideas, like if someone has a thought for a song, then we work on it.

SKRATCH: What albums do you have out?
ALEX: "The Rhythm of Ska", which is our own cd, and we're on like three compilations. WALLY: Yeah, Stubborn Records, "Roots, Branches and Stems", Moon Records, "Spawn of Skaarmaggedon", and one from France called "The Big Skank Theory". There is also SKAthentic which is Steady Beat Recording. We are gonna be on one which is also gonna feature No Doubt, Fishbone, and Skatalites.

SKRATCH: Are you going to be recording for a new album?
ALEX: We should be going in to studio at the end of February to record a seven inch single and for the compr-lation, but hopefully about May 1997 we will be in studio for the next album.

SKRATCH: How would you categorize Mobtown's music?
ALEX: 100% ska. We incorporate rocksteady, upbeat, two-tone, reggae, all types really.

SKRATCH: As a band, who are your biggest influences?
WALLY: For strictly ska bands, probably Skatalites and earlier stuff. ALEX: We all listen to different things, for I listen to a lot of rock-steady and stuff. WALLY: Thats all from the earlier days more of the roots, and of course we are all influenced by bands like the Specials and more upbeat things.

SKRATCH: What are your plans for the future?
ALEX: Target new areas. EVIE: Get new music out, tour.

SKRATCH: Have you guys toured before?
EVIE: Yeah, we just got back. ALEX: Mini-tours, usually four or five days, Arizona, up north, Sacramento, [there is more but it is too jumbled]

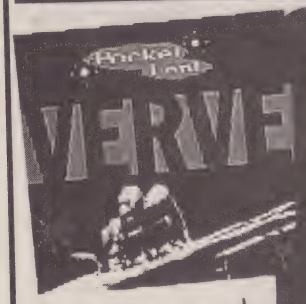
SKRATCH: Who are your favorite bands to play with?
GARY: Hepcat. ALEX: Bad Manners, the Selecter, Desmond Dekker, the Skatalites. WALLY: Basically Fishbone was the best! ALEX: The Skeletones. WALLY: All the people we have looked up to because it is an honor to

play with such bands. ALEX: Cause when we started they were all big influences on us.

SKRATCH: Well, thanks for your time guys and good luck.

-Jackie O

Pocket Lent



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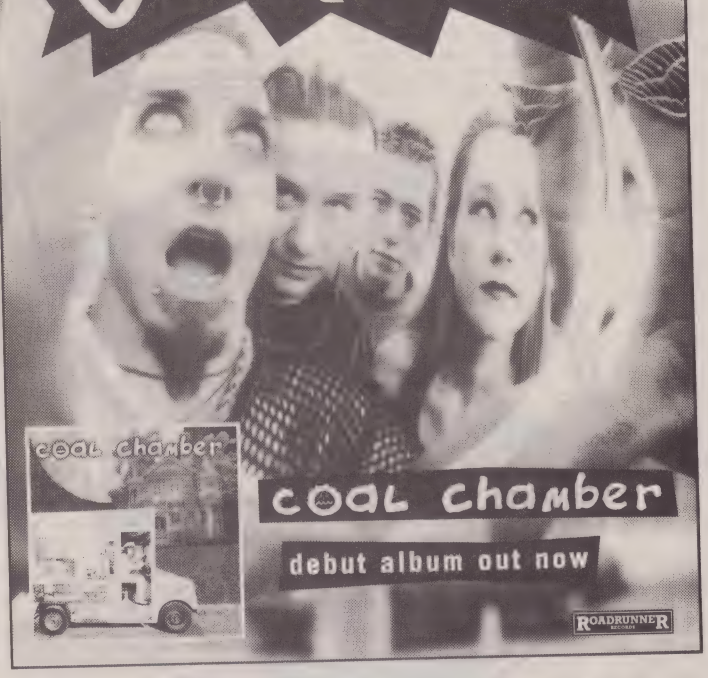

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SUPERNOVICE INTERVIEW 12/30/97

I DROPPED IN ON A RECENT REHEARSAL OF SUPER NOVICE JUST FOR THE HELL OF IT AND BECAUSE SLACKIN' SCOTT PRESANT THINKS THAT I DON'T WORK ENOUGH. LIKE I'VE GOT SOME OTHER NOT-SO-SECRET PROJECT OR SOMETHING THAT DISTRACTS ME FROM MY MISSION IN LIFE....TO WORK ON SKRATCH, AND MAKE HIM LOTS OF MONEY. BESIDES, AFTER HEARING THE SELF PRODUCED LATEST RELEASE OF SUPERNOVICE "INESCAPEABLE"....I DECIDED I WANTED TO TALK TO THE GUYS MYSELF. (MEL IS LYING HE'S JUST A FLUFFY LIL' WRITER, COMPLETE SELL-OUT ....-EDITOR) NO, I REALLY LIKE IT. (YEAH RIGHT YOU FOO -EDITOR.)

SKRATCH: SO WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENS DURING A SUPERNOVICE REHEARSAL?

DAVID TURBOW: WE PRACTICE ABOUT 35 SONGS IN ABOUT THREE HOURS. (EVERYONE LAUGHS)

SKRATCH: SPEAKING OF EVERYONE, WHY DON'T YOU INTRODUCE YOURSELVES AND SAY WHAT YOU PLAY...

PASQUALE: PASQUALE TALARICO, I'M THE BASS PLAYER.

JOHANNA: JOHANNA CORBETT, I DO BACK UP VOCALS.

STEPHAN: STEPHAN VESELKO, DRUMS.

DAVID: DAVID TURBOW, I SING AND PLAY GUITAR.

SKRATCH: YOU GUYS HAVE BEEN AROUND SINCE ABOUT 1992...HOW LONG HAVE YOU HAD THE CURRENT LINE UP?

DAVID: FOR ABOUT A YEAR...

JOHANNA: EXCEPT FOR ME, I'VE BEEN HERE FOR ABOUT THREE MONTHS...

SKRATCH: SO YOUR THE ONE WITH THE COMMUTE, FROM KSPC LAND, RANCHO CUCAMUNGA.....

JOHANNA: YEA

STEPHAN: SHE'S OUR CANADIAN CONNECTION...

JOHANNA: I'M FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA...

PASQUALE: I'M FROM LYNWOOD AND HAVE THE TATTOOS TO PROVE IT...

DAVID: I'M FROM GARDEN GROVE, LAND OF THE OFFSPRING...

STEPHAN: I WAS BORN IN NEW YORK, AND NOW I'M OUT HERE...

SKRATCH: WHEN DID "INESCAPABLE " COME OUT?

DAVID: SPRING OF '96, ..

SKRATCH: YOU GUYS PUT IT OUT ON YOUR OWN LABEL?

DAVID: YEA, I RUN A LITTLE LABEL CALLED ONSET RECORDS.. ITS BEEN GOING REAL WELL.

SKRATCH: DO YOU LIKE THE LABEL BUSINESS?

DAVID: YEA, WELL, WERE SHOPPING FOR A MAJOR RIGHT NOW...WE HAVE A MANAGER WHO HAS A DEMO WITH SELECTIONS FROM "WELL FED" AND "INESCAPABLE" AND IS SHOPPING IT AROUND. EVEN IF WE DO GET SIGNED, I'LL TRY TO DO ONSET...

SKRATCH: GREG HETSON OF THE CIRCLE JERKS (AND BAD RELIGION) HELPED PRODUCE "INESCAPABLE"...WHAT WAS IT LIKE WORKING WITH HIM?

DAVID: IT WAS PRETTY FUN...HE HELPED COME IN THE STUDIO TO HELP US GET SOME GUITAR SOUNDS, HELPED WITH THE MIXING...WE DID IT AT WEST BEACH RECORDING, THEY DO A LOT OF EPITAPH STUFF SO HE WAS REAL FAMILIAR WITH THE STUDIO THERE....WITH THIS LINE UP WE'VE BEEN SELF PRODUCING A LOT OF OUR STUFF. RIGHT NOW WE RECORDED A SONG CALLED "SAVING FACE" FOR A COMPILATION FOR KOO'S CAFE. THAT SHOULD BE OUT SOMETIME SOON. WE RECORDED THAT AT SATURATION STUDIO IN COSTA MESA.

SKRATCH: ARE YOU GUYS TOURING?

STEPHAN: WE JUST GOT BACK FROM NEW MEXICO AND ARIZONA....

DAVID: WE DON'T HAVE OUR OWN BOOKING AGENT SO WE SET IT UP OURSELVES....IT GETS TOUGH TO SET UP, ESPECIALLY BETWEEN ALL OUR JOBS AND SCHOOL.

SKRATCH: WHAT WERE SOME OF THE TOWNS LIKE?

PASQUALE: IT WAS GREAT UNTIL WE GOT TO TUSCON, ARIZONA...

SKRATCH: OH YEA, WHAT HAPPENED THERE?

DAVID: NEVER MIND.....

STEPAN: WE ALMOST GOT SHOT...

PASQUALE: IT'S A SEEDY TOWN...THEY LOVED DAVID TURBOW..

DAVID: YEA, I ENDED UP GETTING CHASED BY SOME FREAKY GAY STALKER....

SKRATCH: TURBOW CAUSING UNREST IN THE GREAT AMERICAN SOUTHWEST!

DAVID: YEA, BUT IT WAS BEAUTIFUL AND WE SAW LOTS OF ROCKS.

SKRATCH: INCLUDING THE GIANT CRATER? (IN REFERENCE TO A NEW MEXICO NEWSPAPER ARTICLE WHICH HIGHLIGHTED THE BANDS TRIP TO SEE THE GIANT METEOR CRATER IN THE DESERT.....

PASQUALE: AHH...SHIT

SKRATCH: THAT'S RIGHT, CAUSE YOUR LIKE A GEOLOGY TEACHER RIGHT?

DAVID: I USED TO TEACH GEOLOGY, NOW I TEACH BIOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES...

SKRATCH: HOW WAS PHOENIX?

DAVID: WELL, WE HAD A SHOW THERE BUT WE NEVER MADE IT....IT WAS AT THE MASON JAR, I THINK....WE HAD TO SKIP IT DRIVING ALL THE WAY HOME FROM PHOENIX IN ONE SHOT ....IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT...

STEPHAN: WE STARTED AT THREE O'CLOCK AT NIGHT....

DAVID: ....IN THE MIDST OF GUNFIRE....

SKRATCH: DID YOU PLAY ANY DATES IN SAN DIEGO?.

DAVID: YEA, WE PLAYED AT SOUL KITCHEN IN EL CAJON, AND THE CASBAH A FEW MONTHS AGO. SAN DIEGO IS COOL CAUSE THEY'RE PRETTY RECEPTIVE TO ROCK MUSIC DOWN THERE...WE'RE PRETTY MUCH AN INDIE ROCK BAND, AND WE FIT IN WELL WITH BANDS LIKE AMINIATURE, SMILE, AND NO KNIFE....BANDS LIKE THAT.

SKRATCH: ...YEA IT GETS LAME SOME TIMES WHEN BANDS GET PEGGED AS A "BLANK" BAND, WHETHER ITS HARDCORE, OR SKA, OR WHATEVER, AND NO ONE WILL CHECK OUT OTHER TYPES OF MUSIC.....

DAVID: YEA. I TOLD THIS STORY TO SCOTT ONE TIME. WE PLAYED THIS FREE SHOW AT BLOCKBUSTER MUSIC ONE TIME...AND WE PASSED OUT FLYERS...STEPHAN PUT FLYERS IN LOCKERS DOWN AT EDISON HIGH....AND THIS KID CALLS US UP AND WANTS TO KNOW IF WE ARE A PUNK BAND OR A SKA BAND, AS IF THERE ARE ONLY TWO TYPES OF MUSIC. ITS KINDA FRUSTRATING. LIKE IF YOU WERE TO GO TO TENNESSEE AND FIND THAT THERE IS ONLY TWO TYPES OF MUSIC....COUNTRY AND WESTERN. LIKE THERE'S ONLY PUNK OR SKA? PERSONALLY I LIKE BOTH, BUT THERE'S ALSO LOTS OF OTHER GOOD STUFF OUT THERE. IT WOULD BE NICE TO GET BOOKED WITH SOME OTHER BANDS...WE DON'T GET BOOKED WITH OTHER BANDS BECAUSE PROMOTERS TEND TO DO LIKE ONLY SKA SHOWS.

PASQUALE: ITS KINDA OF FUNNY, BECAUSE FRIENDS OF MINE IN SAVE FERRIS OR MY SUPERHERO TELL ME THEY ARE ALWAYS TRYING TO GET OUT OF ONLY PLAYING ALL SKA SHOWS, LIKE THEY WANT TO PLAY WITH OTHER TYPES OF BANDS, YOU KNOW?

SKRATCH: THE RESPONSE TO "INESCAPABLE" HAS BEEN REAL GOOD. I HEAR A LOT OF DIVERSE INFLUENCES THERE, CALL IT INDIE ROCK, ALTERNATIVE, OR POP-PUNK OR WHATEVER.....

PASQUALE: ....WE'RE ALTERNATIVE...

STEPHAN: ... OUR NEXT ALBUM SHOULD SOUND A LOT DIFFERENT.

DAVID: YEA, I'M A BIG FAN OF POP BANDS LIKE NIRVANA, SUGAR, PIXIES, REM, STUFF LIKE THAT WHERE THERE'S VOCAL MELODIES THAT STICK OUT AND LOTS OF LOUD, DISTORTED GUITARS...ITS TOUGH TO CLASSIFY THAT. LOUD POP?

SKRATCH: SO YOU GUYS GOING BACK INTO THE STUDIO? IS THE SONGWRITING PROCESS ONGOING FOR YOU?

DAVID: WE WERE TALKING TO MIKE ROSENS, HE'S THE GUITARIST AND VOCALIST FOR SMILE, AND WE WERE GOING TO DO SOME EIGHT TRACK RECORDING AT CONTROL WORLD IN COSTA MESA. I ACTUALLY HAVE ENOUGH MATERIAL WRITTEN FOR ANOTHER ALBUM. FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE ALL WE HAVE IS A DEMO RELEASE AND SOME LOCAL SHOWS....FEBRUARY 15 IS AN ALL AGES SHOW AT SACRED GROUND IN SAN PEDRO, FEBRUARY 21 IS THE TIKI BAR, AND MARCH 6 IS CLUB 369 IN FULLERTON, AND ON MARCH 8 WITH SAVE FERRIS, VITAMIN-L AND OTHERS - IT'S OUR FIRST 98 POSSE SHOW AT THE UC RIVERSIDE BARN. YEA, WE LIKE THE ALL AGES SHOWS.....

SKRATCH: ANY PARTING WORDS?

PASQUALE: I LOOK GOOD IN A SKIRT.

STEPHAN: YEA, HE'S SINGLE AND HORNY...AND A PRIEST ON THE WEEKENDS.

DAVID: AREN'T WE ALL SINGLE AND HORNY? THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO COMES OUT AND SEES OUR SHOWS, AND SUPPORTS US. IF YOUR AN UP AND COMING LOCAL BAND, GIVE US A CALL....

JOHANNA: AND NO DOUBT...GWEN IF YOU WANT US TO GO ON TOUR WITH YOU , GIVE US A CALL...

-MEL TORMENT

ODD NUMBERS' LIFE IN THE MODERN WORLD

Mr. Dave Basia, lead singer and songwriter for the Odd Numbers, took a little time at the Usual in San Jose's SoFa district, to discuss what's up with this San Jose based band. Over the last seven or eight years, the Odd Numbers have created a fan base here in the states and abroad, rippin' out the tune-age which has been compared to a threesome between the Jam, the Who, and the Buzzcocks.

KO: So for those who don't know you, tell me your Odd Numbers life story.

DB: Me, Dave Miller, and John Cummings, all went to high school together. And we were all infatuated with the Who, the Jam and stuff when we were kids. So we said "we're gonna make a band, we're not gonna work ever, just side-step all this shit". Since we're friends and stuff, we kept each other at it. We all had the same idea at the start, and we still have that same idea now. Usually people come and go in other bands, but it's not like that with us.

KO: Ego trips go hand in hand with a lot a bands, it's pretty rare to have a band be together for as long as you guys have. So what's going on now?

DB: Making a new record right now. It's gonna be called "A Guide to Modern Living". It's about what I've been doing, what we've all been doing for the last year.

KO: Which has been .... what?

DB: Lotta stuff. Like touring and losing people in the band.

KO: What happened to John?

DB: During the first part of 1995 we were playing in Hastings, England,. And were just hanging out, getting really drunk at the end of show. John (the drummer) got coaxed to come upstairs to check out this guy's three-wheeled Harley whatever. So he took it out and got about half a block and just flipped it into a pole which just smashed his leg to hell.

KO: So tell me about Dave Miller, what contribution does he make to the band?

DB: Well I've known him since kindergarten. But, I guess he's just really good on the road which is important. It was pretty hectic when John busted his leg in the middle of the tour, we were all just freaking out. But now that it's all over, it's made us that much stronger.

KO: So who did most of the writing, musically and lyrically for your new release?

DB: I write the songs, pretty much. Miller writes a couple songs, but on the new record he's not really involved.

KO: So how long have you been working on the new record?

DB: We started at the very start of the summer. We came back from Europe and tried to get shit together. Tried to find a drummer, first we had Todd from Soda, but he was then neglecting that band to some extent, so we got Dave Conrad to do it instead.

KO: What's Dave's background?

DB: Drug. He's played with Frontline and some punk bands from San Jose.

KO: So will you guys be more hard edged, or more "poppy", what?

DB: Actually it's way more diverse. We have horns on some songs, keyboards on a lot. I think we're just better in the studio now after all this time. There's more songs on there, there's acoustic stuff. And then definitely got a reggae sound to it, it's got the horns goin' on. And there's jazzy songs like "The Accidental" with jazz keyboards. I guess we can say we're experimenting with Punk-Rock Jazz these days.

KO: Diversity is a good thing with the influx of so many new bands over the last two years, each sounding a bit like the other. It's kind of like cousin's marrying cousins and consummating like rabbits. Then we get to listen to the afterbirth.

DB: Yea, I think that's one of the hardest things to do is keeping your credibility with the punk crowd but still branch out into other areas.

KO: Keep your fan base but also attract new people.

DB: Right, musically I like to grow because it sucks to do the same songs over and over. Then it becomes like a job after that, mundane.

KO: So the song "Clubbin" was written from hangin' out with this crowd, your friends and so on. What tapped your creative nerve on the other songs?

DB: When I write songs, they come out, and then the shit I write about actually happens, kinda weird. Like "Big Mistake" it kind of describes the situation we got in with John and what happened with him. And then "The Easy Life" is basically about struggling to make anything of your life. When you end up doing what you dream of doing. The music comes easier than the lyrics do. Thinking of something good or relevant to say in a song is more difficult to come up with than the music.

KO: Have you guys ever participated in any of the music related type conventions, like South by Southwest or CMJ, to get yourself more exposure?

DB: No, not really. We're lazy fucks. But we are going to take things a little more serious with this new record. I feel it's the best thing we've done so far. It's not so much a hobby anymore.

Well I did got a hold of the demo tape and was energized beyond belief. Dave was right, the Odd Numbers have taken themselves into the fast lane of diversity, stretching their musical tendons by giving us a "Guide to Modern Living". These days people get bored very quickly and easily, including myself, but with every song you get a different feeling or mode, but they're all good. And I also agree with Dave, this is the best thing they've ever done.

They'll be touring Europe come April 1st for two months, venturing into eight countries. They'll be releasing the CD around mid-February. Their working on distribution, but you can get your hot little hands on it by contacting: 819 Productions, Ray Stevens, 190 Martha Street, Unit 1, San Jose, CA 95112 Phone: 408-298-8520, email:sj819@ix.netcom.com

-Kimberly Owens

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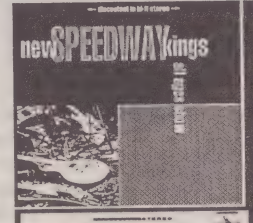

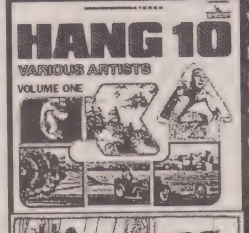

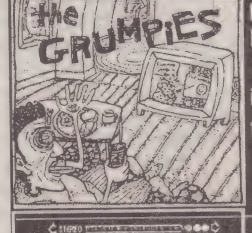

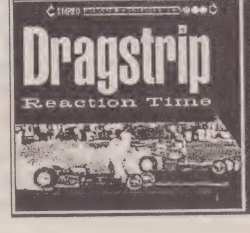

→ New Speedway Kings are a punk band from San Francisco, with a six song CD. ($7) → "Hang 10" is a 10 band compilation 10 inch. It offers surf related music from Helen Love, Tornadoes, Fun Fun Attitude, Boyz Next Door, Woodies, Queers, Beatnik Termites, McRackins, Cub, Mark Brodie & the Beaver Patrol. ($7) → The Grumpies are Amy, Vince and Jayson. They're from Mississippi. They play four fast songs on their debut single. They will play in your house! ($3.50) → From Bloomington, Indiana, it's 13 cool hot rod and surf instrumentals on the debut CD from Dragstrip. ($9)

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SHREDDER Records

"ENOUGH ALREADY" SHOW AT THE HOLLYWOOD PALLADIUM

The Sublime benefit show was a fundraiser for Bradley Nowell's son, and for a program to help musicians get clean off drugs. Without a doubt, this was one of the best shows I (Jon) have ever attended. Every band did great, and (other than those who were kicked out for fighting) it was a good time had by all. (Due to the abundance of bands, KC and Jon split this review)

KC&Jon-The Will Call line took so long, we missed Long Beach's All Day and San Diego's Slightly Stoopid (I was in line over an hour early, if The Galaxy is reading this). Jon picked up All Day's CD, and it's the shit (Straight Faced meets HFL). We were sad to have missed Slightly Stoopid.

Jon-Sacramento's, **Filibuster** took the stage, and ran through a 20 minute set of ska, funk, and jams. The sound was shitty, and having listened to their CD, it was not a good representation of the band. I'll have to see these guys in a smaller venue.

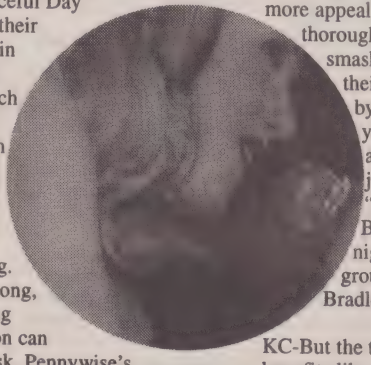
Jon-**Fluf** played a quick set. There are no bad Fluf shows, only bad venues, audience, etc. Actually, the crowd responded positively to these major label rock gods (only a slight exaggeration). "24-7 years" was a highlight as well as relevant (it was a song about Kurt Cobain). O, singer and guitarist, also previewed a dedication song to Bradley Nowell.

Jon-Skunk Records's own **Ziggens** played in Star Trek outfits, played one of their best sets ever. They opened up with a cover of Sublime's "Badfish". The highlight was the infamous "Something About A Waitress" off the Chicken Out CD (a must have). The new material "I Love A Parade") also sounded great off the new Ignoramus CD.

KC-**The Voodoo Glow Skulls** delivered lightning fast fury in eruptive skacore style. The band features Francisco's hardhitting vocals, aggressive rock guitar by Edgardo, Jorge's strong basslines, Jerry's powerful drumming, and the blistering horn section of Joey on the sax, Brodie on the trombone, and Joe on the trumpet. Opening with "Insubordination," VGS immediately captivated the crowd with their intensity and energy. With a good mix of the old and the new, they kept the hits coming. Highlights included "Shoot the Moon" from *Firme* and "Dirty Rats" off *Who Is, This Is?* Their big KROQ hit "Fat Randy" was a definite crowd pleaser. If the new songs that VGS played tonight including "Feeling For You" are indicative of their upcoming release, then another great VGS album is on its way.

KC-**The Vandals** were up next, attacking the stage with the wild energy associated with this dynamic punk rock quartet. They consist of the awesome musicianship of Warren Fitzgerald on guitar, bassist Joe Escalante, Joe Freese on the drums, and the vocals of Dave Quackenbush.
They played some tracks off *The Quickening* including "It's a Fact". The holiday spirit was brought back with "Oi to the World" from Christmas with the Vandals. The slam pits and the crowd surfers were of course in full effect during the entire set. When introducing their Sublime cover, Dave affectionately said "If we fuck it up you know it's a tribute cause they would fuck it up too." But the Vandal's punk rendition of "Ball and Chain" kicked ass. A definite highlight was Warren taking over the mic in "I Have a Date". He flew (and fell) all over the stage in a seemingly intoxicated induced frenzy. The Vandals ended their set with "Summer Love," a cover of the Grease classic Vandals' style.

KC-With the pits warmed up, **Pennywise** took the stage. The churning crowd got charged up as Pennywise played hit after hit. With infectious melodies and thoughtful, positive lyrics, Pennywise delivers intense punk rock that you can't resist singing along to. Members of the band include Fletcher Dragge on guitar, Byron McMackin on the drums, vocalist Jim Lindberg, and new bassist Randy Bradbury. Highlights included the title track off of Unknown Road and "Peaceful Day" from About Time. Off of their upcoming album due out in spring, Pennywise played "Fight Till You Die," which has an irresistible sing along chorus coupled with a catchy cliche. Their awesome cover of "Stand By Me" starts off slow and groovy and escalates into a tight, fast punk song. Before playing their last song, Jim told the crowd to "sing along so Bradley and Jason can hear." (Jason: Jason Thirsk, Pennywise's original bassist took his life in late September of last year.) Pennywise tore up the stage with "Bro Hymn" and the crowd sang along in one loud unified chorus. The irony of Pennywise closing their set with songs about brotherhood and unity in the face of frustration and hopelessness adds another sad twist to the tragic self-inflicted deaths of Bradley Nowell and Jason Thirsk.



Jon-The highlight of the evening was the **Long Beach Dub All-Stars** which include Bud and Eric from Sublime, Ikey and Tim from Pocket Lent and Teen Heroes, Marshall on the turntables, Opie (Sublime's artist) on the mike, and a host of other musicians. HR from Bad Brains even came out and sang for a few songs. It is basically an extended jam session of Sublime songs, old and new. "Garden Grove", "Pawn Shop", "Live at E's", "What Happened", "Doin' Time",. It was an incredible and tasteful tribute to Bradley, and must not go away.

KC-By the time **No Doubt** was about to take the stage, the Palladium was completely packed, sweaty, and anxiously awaiting the headliners of the evening. No Doubt jump started their set with their newest hit single "Excuse Me Mr." With Tom Dumont on guitar, the funky basslines of Tony Kanal, Adrian Young's steady beats, the dancing horn players Gabe McNair and Phil Jordan, and frontwoman Gwen Stefani working the crowd, the usual No Doubt energy was in full effect. The capacity crowd (the benefit sold out in 8 seconds) went nuts with every hit off of the quintuple platinum Tragic Kingdom. No Doubt performed a Sublime cover of "D.J.s" as a tribute to Bradley's widow Troy, with Gwen remarking "Troy has been amazingly strong" throughout this ordeal. "D.J.s" haunting lyrics "ain't nothing wrong, ain't nothing right, and still I sit and lie awake all night" capture the tragedy and frustration of Bradley's death. Minus Bradley's reggae rap, "Total Hate" maintained its ska grooviness albeit his vocals would have added much more appeal. The hit hungry audience was thoroughly delighted with No Doubt's smash single "Spider Webs", though their excitement was not dissipated by Gwen's stark reminder "Oh yeah... this is for Bradley too" lest anyone forget. Bands and friends joined on stage for a final song "ObLaDee, ObLaDa" by the Beatles, a fitting conclusion to night that brought together a huge group of people in memory of Bradley.

KC-But the true question remains, what will benefits like "Enough Already" do for the ominous problem of drug use among musicians and everyone else? The manager of Sublime summed it up best when he said "We've lost too many damn good musicians." But Gwen expressed some pessimism about the effectiveness of the benefit, saying "Hopefully it will promote awareness about drugs. I don't know...we'll see. At least Jakob gets some money." But if death cannot discourage rampant drug use, then what will?

-KC and Jonny Vegas

Agent Orange, Knockout, P-Town Pubsters, Tongue

at Club 369 in Fullerton Jan. 17, 1997

Tongue was the opener on this bill, featuring Sharon from the now defunct Butt Trumpet (Flipside records). A five piece punk rock band similar to the Avengers or Vice Squad, Tongue's clean blues intros inevitably led straight into punk hooks. The momentum of their raucous energy was briefly thwarted by technical difficulties.

The P-Town Pubsters began with Joe Deacy's acapella version of "Green Sleeves". Songs such as "Crazy as We Wanna Be" epitomized their unifying theme-the consumption of alcohol. Dressed in drag, wigs, and crowns, their goofy punk stage antics were mildly amusing.

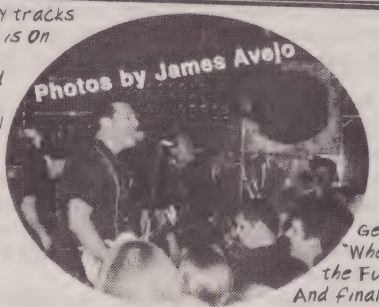
Knockout's relentless rock n' roll punk began with "Heat Mama" and "No Number" from their Dr. Dream Release "Think It's Time". The crowd began singing along soon after. The musicians' duties became commandeering the ensuing slampit, which began abruptly in the midst of waving middle fingers and plastic beer mugs being hurled at the stage. With two male vocalists/guitarists and bassist Tina Colson, Knockout is a band to watch out for. Their version of Devo's "Uncontrollable Urge" was punk rock.

Agent Orange once again proved that they are absolute masters of the surf punk craft. Led by vocalist/guitarist Mike Palm, their set contained plenty of new material such as the raging "This is All I Need" and "The Electric Storm" from their "Virtually Indestructable" album, released on their own label-Gunka Disc in mid-1996. Some legendary surf covers such as Dick Dale's "Miserlou", "Wipeout" and the Chantay's "Pipeline" were also included. Perhaps the highlight of the set, however, was during the interlude to the classic "Bloodstains" from the "Living in Darkness" album, when Palm lit up a matchbook and spit fire before blazing right back into the finale. The rhythm section, comprised of bassist/backing vocalist Sam Bolle and drummer Dusty Watson was ultra tight. The band played some of my favorite selections from the 1986 release "This is the Voice", such as "Tearing Me Apart", "It's In Your Head", and "Voices in the Night" with flair. A typically drunken, violent and disrespectful crowd threw sandals, sweaters, flyers, mic cables, beer mugs and anything else they could find at the band- but this didn't detract from the positive vibe of these unstoppable punk veterans one bit. Maintaining an unguarded friendliness and a long standing respect for their home stomping grounds, Agent Orange didn't need to spit back at the crowd because their music, as always, spoke for itself.

-David Turbow

ROCKET FROM THE CRYPT,

LET DOWNS, INCH JAN.9 THE CASBAH, SAN DIEGO



I am still reeling. Any Rocket-rte in attendance will readily agree: the Casbah's 3rd Anniversary show headlining Rocket from the Crypt will go down as the best in history. Let me repeat: RFTC+ Casbah=History. Both have shared a long relationship and quite possibly reached a pinnacle on January 9th. Does anyone remember a better Rocket show?

In contrast to their recent outing supporting

Sound garden wherein they played a measly 20-25 minutes (I had to withstand from large-venue blues at the Universal Amphitheater), this gig lasted a good hour-plus and spanned their album history, save "Paint as a Fragrance". Fueled by the Casbah's anniversary and Elvis' birthday, the Rocketeers unleashed a furious and seamless set kicking off with "Dollar", and a set-list standard from "Circa Now" followed by tracks off State of the Art is On Fire and Hot Charity. Then_ an precedented (at least to my ears) few B-sides from "All Systems Go" including "Cha, Cha, Cha" "Pure Genius" and "Where are the Fuckers?" And finally polishing off with select hits from their latest major release "Scream, Dracula, Scream," leaving the crowd breathless and wanting more. Unfortunately, this was not to be. No encore.

This show had the makings of a winner. From the disguised billing under the nomer RFTC (which might stump some) to the opening bands: San Diego stalwarts the Let Downs and Inch. Both bands threw their hats into the arena of greatness with their blend of emo and plain ol'rawk, San Diego style.

Pluses- Mad props to Derek Schaefer and Casbah's Tim Mays for the admission to witness history and to Kristi Watson for trying to nab me a prized set list.

Minuses- No props go out to the guy who went onstage to steal drumsticks off Atom's drum set (straight-out robbery!!!) and some of the rowdies. This is a Rocket show, dammit!!

Thank You Speedo, ND, Apollo, Atom, JC 2000, Petey X, and the energetic Dirty.

-James Avejo

My Superhero

Pre Cd Release Party 1997 Showcase

Opening up My Superhero's Pre-CD Release Party was Simple green, a young melodic punk band from Orange. They have really good melodies backed by a decent rhythm section. Lyrically, Simple green emphasizes optimism and not taking life for granted. It's refreshing to hear a young band express a positive attitude when addressing the problems of life. Better songs of their set include "C'n'C" and "Gypsy Woman". Simple green just needs more time to gain a better stage presence.

The Cerritos based, Pharmaceutical Bandits are a high school 5piece ska band. Their songs basically deal with the worries of high school in a light-hearted way, and hence probably appeal to the young ska scene. The boys did add a little variety to their straight ska set with a slower, jazzier "New Jazz Song". They ended with two of their catchier songs "BandAid (for My Soul)" about jocks taking advantage of drunken girls with low self-worth, and a song dealing with their infatuation with the girls soccer team "I Don't Care".

Another young band Slightly Stoopid took the stage next. With Miles Doughty on guitar and vocals, bassist Kyle, and Adam on the drums, this impressive Skunk Records band has a very promising future. Although it's impossible to ignore the obvious Sublime influence in their music, it would be unfair to write this band off as Sublime imitators. Their groovy reggae oriented rhythms with a little punk here and little punk there are immediately mesmerizing, especially with Miles' vocals and stage presence. His voice and melodies thrive on the same qualities associated with Bradley's. One of their louder, thrashier songs "Opportunities" got the slam pit going, and the groovier "Zero Tolerance" was a plus. A highlight to their set was their closing song "Hey Stoopid".

This night's lineup featured a bunch of young upcoming bands from different genres of music, providing evidence of SoCal's strong music scene. For example, the next band was Teen Heroes, a powerpop band with a Weezeresque vibe. This band consists of Peter Berberich on guitar, bassist Alexis Haretakis, Jeremiah Farchik on the drums, keyboardist Isaiah Owens, and vocalist/guitarist Jesse Wilder. With a dynamic and textured sound, some strengths of the band are the amazing vocals and melodies coupled with soul searching lyrics about the pain of broken relationships and basic human emotion. Their song "1000 & 1" definitely rocked as did their cover of "What I Did for Love" from *A Chorus Line.*

The Riverside band Low Pressure have seen a quick rise in popularity in the local ska scene with their really skankable ska tunes punctuated with some very crisp horn lines. The skankhappy crowd ate up Low Pressure's ska ditties, with highlights being "Nowhere" and "Touch the Sky". Low Pressure sounded their best tonight as compared to the other times they have played. They seemed a lot more coherent and confident.

The Anaheim skapunk band, My Superhero played an awesome set. I've seen them play Other times and have never been too impressed with their stage presence. Maybe it was the venue or maybe because it was an all around brilliant show, but My Superhero was on tonight. They played some kickin' tunes off of their new release Solid State 14, including "Another Kind" and "Going Somewhere". While their new stuff rules, the kids went nuts for oldies like "Station (Down the Roadway)" and "Baggage". Songs off of *SKAteboard Music* were played with a revitalized vigor. They definitely represent better live than on disc. Oh, but the cover songs that My Superhero play kick ass. These include "Take the Skinheads Bowling", the crowd favorite "Groovy Kind of Love", and the encore "When I Saw Her Standing There".

Overall, the sound quality and the energy from the crowd as well as the bands was much better at this show than at the actual CD Release show.

-KC

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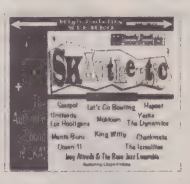

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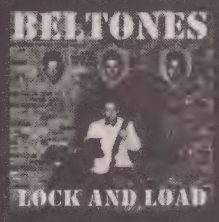

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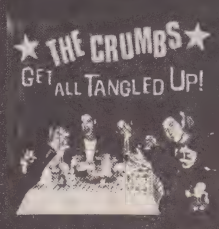

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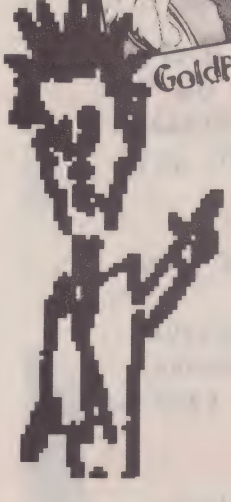

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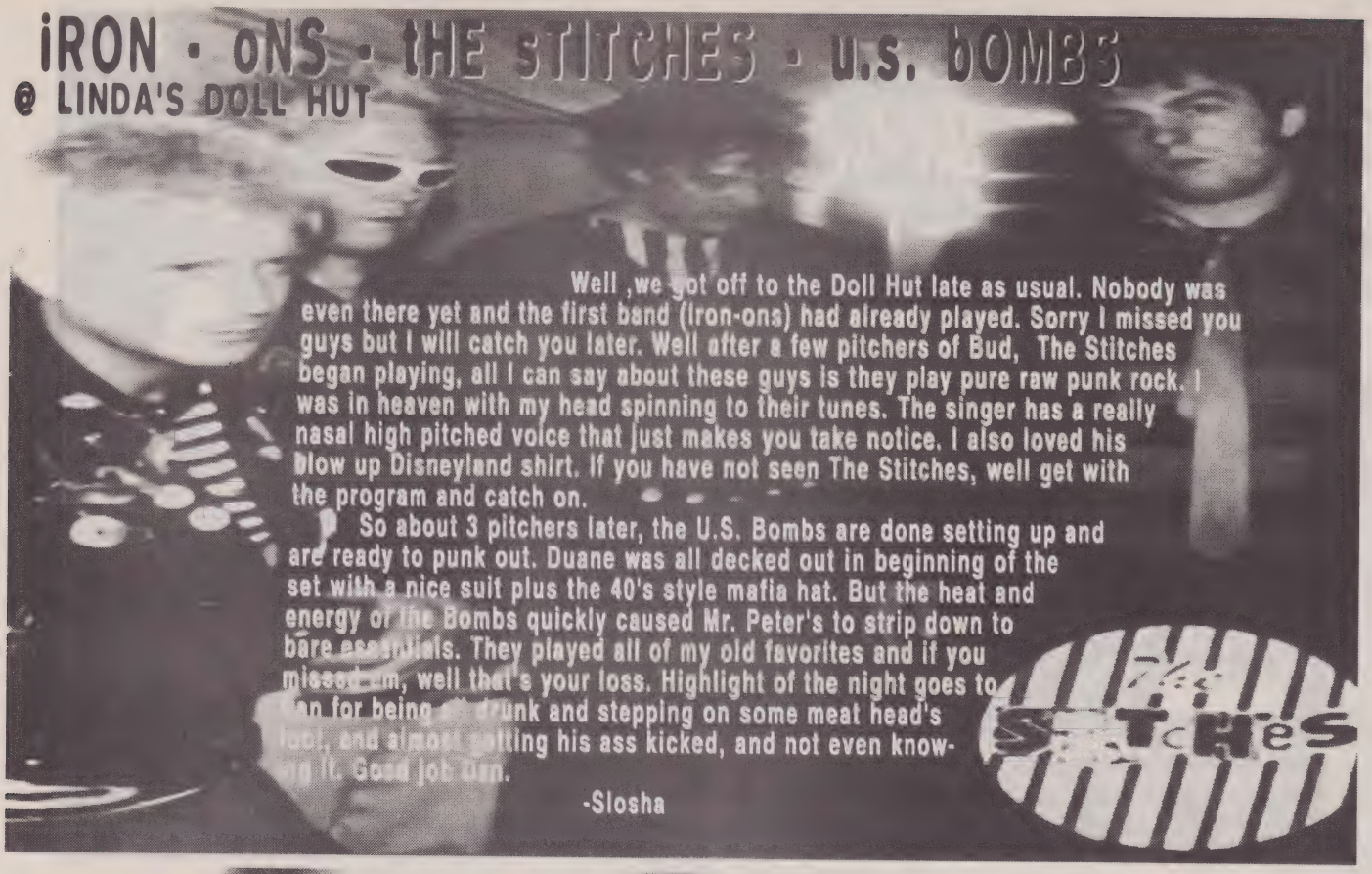

Well ,we got off to the Doll Hut late as usual. Nobody was even there yet and the first band (iron-ons) had already played. Sorry I missed you guys but I will catch you later. Well after a few pitchers of Bud, The Stitches began playing, all I can say about these guys is they play pure raw punk rock. I was in heaven with my head spinning to their tunes. The singer has a really nasal high pitched voice that just makes you take notice. I also loved his blow up Disneyland shirt. If you have not seen The Stitches, well get with the program and catch on.

So about 3 pitchers later, the U.S. Bombs are done setting up and are ready to punk out. Duane was all decked out in beginning of the set with a nice suit plus the 40's style mafia hat. But the heat and energy of the Bombs quickly caused Mr. Peter's to strip down to bare essentials. They played all of my old favorites and if you missed 'em, well that's your loss. Highlight of the night goes to [illegible] for being so drunk and stepping on some meat head's foot, and almost getting his ass kicked, and not even knowing it. Good job Jim.

-Slosha

Man will SURRENDER, Promise RING, Texas is the REASON, Gameface At Koo's cafe

THIS SHOW ATTRACTED A DIVERSE CROWD RANGING FROM STRAIGHT EDGE TO PUNK ROCKERS. THE FIRST BAND WAS MAN WILL SURRENDER. THEY'RE ALWAYS AN ENJOYABLE BAND TO WATCH, AND DEMONSTRATED THAT WITH THEIR CONSTANT MOVEMENT AND WILD STAGE APPROACH.

NEXT...PROMISE RING. THEY TOOK CHARGE RIGHT OFF THE BAT AND NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE CROWD LOVED IT-DANCING AROUND LIKE THERE WAS NO TOMORROW. THEIR SOUND WAS INCREDIBLE.

BY THIS TIME, TEXAS IS THE REASON WERE READY TO HEAT UP KOO'S CAFE. I'VE SEEN TEXAS PLAY QUITE A FEW TIMES BEFORE AND HAVE COME TO REALIZE ON THE RIGHT DAY-THEY ARE MORE FUN TO WATCH THAN THE FRICKEN ELECTRICAL PARADE. THE CROWD WAS IN FOR A TREAT BECAUSE THE RIGHT DAY WAS NOW. GET IT. GOT IT. GOOD!

THE PROMISE RING AND TEXAS WERE DEFINITELY THE HIGH-POINTS OF THE SHOW.

GAMEFACE WAS THE LAST BAND TO PLAY AND BOY DID THEY PUT ON A DELIGHTFUL SHOW. THEY MADE FOR A NICE ENDING TO AN INCREDIBLE EVENING OF HARDCORE, EMO-CORE, I'M CORE YOUR CORE, (MY FINGERS ARE SORE...?). I EXPRESS MY SORROW TO ANYONE WHO MISSED THIS ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME EVENT. PEACE.

-TAYLOR O WITH A LITTLE DASH OF SKRATCH EDITORIAL BLAH-

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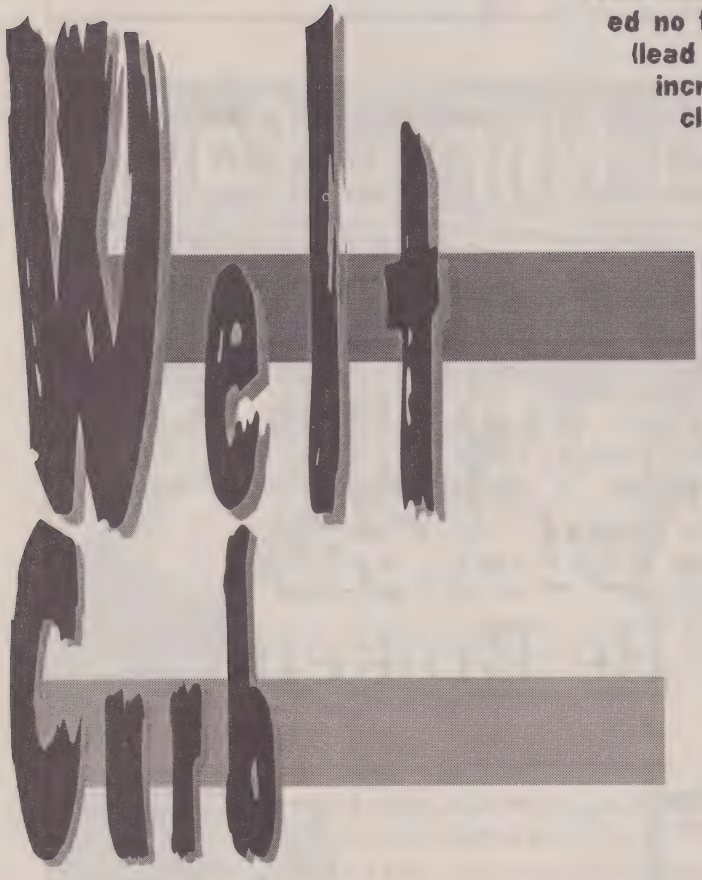
'Twas the night after Thanksgiving and all through the southland it was fucking FREEZING. This was definitely not the night that I wanted to find my self standing in a chaotic, meandering line up outside Costa Mesa's Tiki Bar, while inside, the packed, toasty joint rocked with Sacramento's noise bringers Welt. And then the police got there. And then the Dickies got there. Well, it could have been worse. I could have been Cris from Damaged Goods who, clad in his wife beater Tee, was going into the inital stages of hypothermia.

Both Welt and Curb played prior to my entry, so no enlightment forthcoming on those bands. Big props to Tone Deaf Productions legendary Craig McGahey (London Exchange, NKOTB Productions, etc ad nauseum) and Mark Obey for getting us Skratch hacks in before the frostbite had spread too far. Tone Deaf, in case you had not been paying attention, has been putting together some of the best bills in the southland, combining old school legends with up and coming new bands in a way that only vetrans of punk rock scene could do. The Tiki Bar, is about thier third venue, and by far the most comfortable.

And man was it packed. Tropical drinks and frost brews were flowing , and the holidaze spirit had siezed everyone, even the cops outside who left without doing a headcount (it was under capacity for your information; I know you read this Mr. Code Enforcement spy!) El Centro wasted no time in getting it started, and even Crabby (lead Vox, movement) was in a good mood. They increased the overall mean temperature of the club by at least 10 degrees, as evidenced by the lathered mosers spaszing to the grinding melodies.



Denny's leads were searing when he was chunking out the thick rhythms, and the bottom end and percussion anchored by Adam and Gil was all of that. El Centro is quickly becoming one of the areas more consistantly entertaining band, and they deliver melody with punch and that relentless grinding energy you know I go for. It's that OC surf rat/punk rock attitude and energy which makes El Centro so cool to watch , but it's

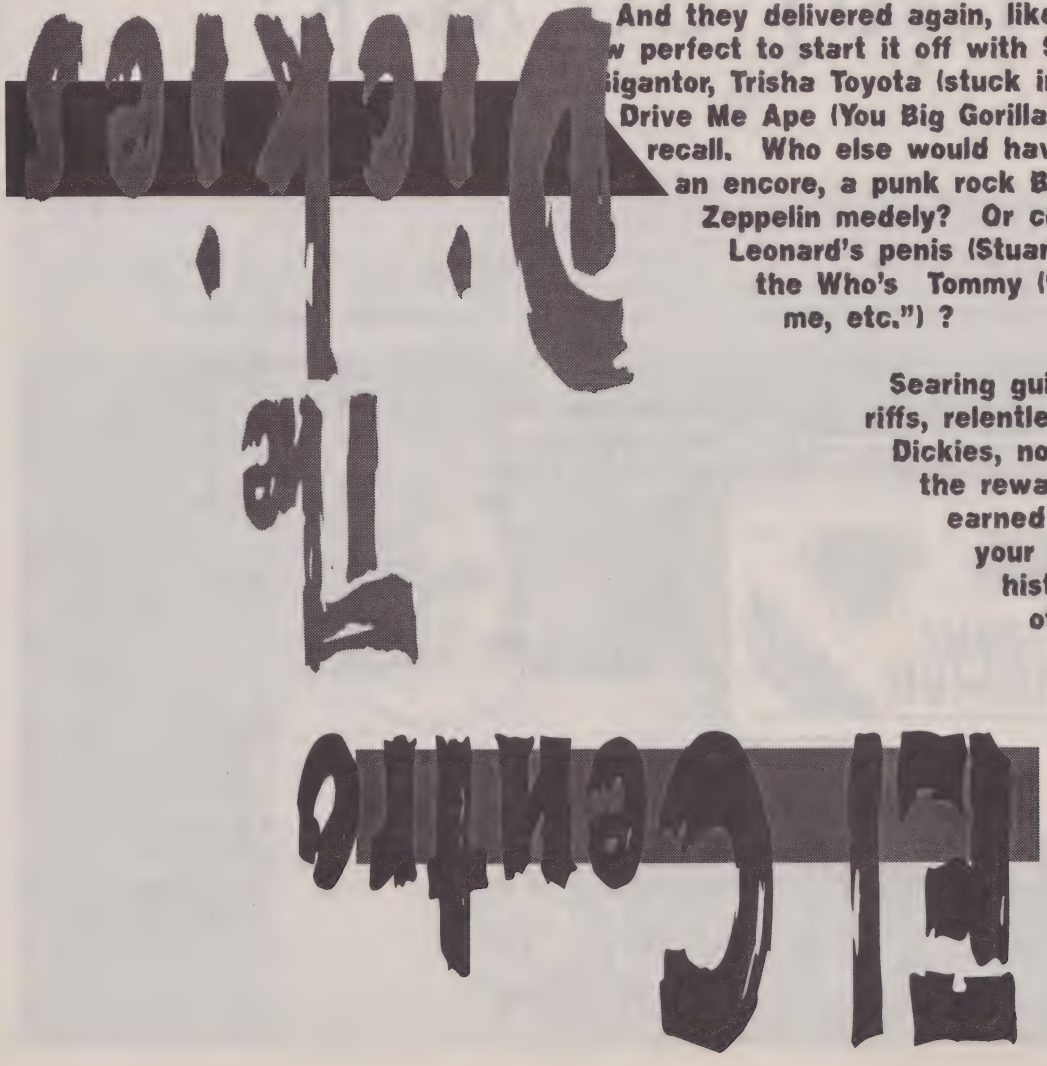
those

guitars hooks which keep you coming back for more. Translate all that to the CD which the the CD which the boys are ready to begin work on, and El Centro comes up big.

Then, suddenly, the opening chords of Silent Night cut through the Tki Night like sonic machetes, and delivered at warp speed which could only mean one thing...THE DICKIES!! The punk legends, better than any cartoon you've ever slam danced to; the original melders of melody to hardcore. Leonard, the man, the wisp, the legend, his penis puppet (Stuart); Stanlee, nostrils all aflair and guitars beyond all reason, and the tighter than ever rhythm section.

Hold, it. You mean you've never seen the Dickies? No, not you assholes....I know you've guys have seen them, cause once you've seen them, your a fan....but what about the rest of you ? Yea, you! You don't really think Green Day is the bomb, do you? Because if you do, you need to see the real deal...the band that has been doing punk for nearly 20 years. The band whose live shows sound like some greatest punk hits sonic medly. But don't think that the Dickies are some tired old band just trying to cash in. These guys are the model upon which Green Day is based, except the Dickies are much better; funnier, harder, louder and much faster.

11/29 @ the Tiki Bar in Costa Misery



And they delivered again, like I knew they would. w perfect to start it off with Silent Night. Then into igantor, Trisha Toyota (stuck in a pagota, with...), You Drive Me Ape (You Big Gorilla), and too many more to recall. Who else would have the 'nad to pull off, for an encore, a punk rock Black Sabbath/Led Zeppelin medely? Or could blend a song about Leonard's penis (Stuart) in Stuart Says with the Who's Tommy ("see me, feel me, touch me, etc.") ?

Searing guitars, great hooks, perfect riffs, relentless energy. See the Dickies, not just to help them reap the rewards that they fully have earned and deserve, but for your own yearning of punk history. To see what the other side of punk is all about, to have fun , to party and go off. History has never been so much fun.

~Mel Torment

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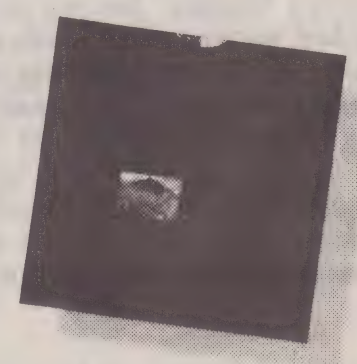

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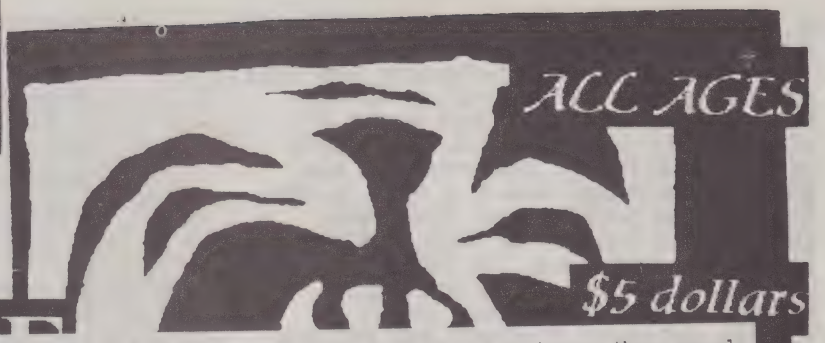

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STILL LI

Some bands form because the people involved want to impress those around them or they like to be the center of attention and others form because they have to. The music is a cathartic expression that needs to be released. Tonight's bands were a good example of that latter principle.

SUBMISS

(From Vancover, Canada)

Bakersfield's Ca. SHAHRAZAD opened up with a whirlwind set of (for lack of a better word) emo-core that musically, wasn't anything I have not heard before. But the conviction and delivery emanating from the band made the music that much more pleasing. The vocalist looked like he was going to collapse after every song, very intense.

FUCKFAC

S.F. Power Violence

Up next, FUCKFACE (S.F. Power Violence) who played an amazing set of frantic hardcore. Wearing tights and a sundress (as well as a coating of the most rancid body odor I've ever smelled) the vocalist stalked the audience, making eye contact with just about everyone and looking like a deranged homeless man. Good and Stinky.

SHAHRAZ

(From Bakersfield, CA.)

Vancover's SUBMISSION HOLD reminded me of Fugazi with a dash of 80's hardcore. Vocalist Jen really knows how to communicate and talked to the audience, instead of talking at them which made all the difference and helped the band from sounding "preachy". They are a band with alot to say and do it well.

Roswell Pr

STILL LIFE have been attracting alot of attention and for good reason. Musically they have been given the "emo" crown to wear but are beyond that. At times lush and then cacophonic STILL LIFE are trying to create something new with their sound and with passing time they seem to get closer to that goal. An impressive set to end an overall great night of noise.

-MAYNARD KREBS

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The movement is not just a sectional issue. It has become a fight against the elite, against deregulation imposed by police batons, against the cuts, against the rich, against an inhuman society. It's a movement which must be political. It has awakened so many people and we don't have the right to betray them.

french worker on strike, 1995

Fall Silent, Enewetak, Gamala, 100 Words for Snow, and Paine. Koo's Cafe January 25,1997

A small size crowd showed up for this show, but considering it was Koo's, it was a pretty good turn out. The bands all gave high energy performances, but most of the crowd was in a daze. It was probably the pouring rain. Everyone was hanging out, kicking back, but then some shit went down. A HARDLINE kid (no name) showed up and pepper sprayed a punk in the face, (which swelled out about 6 inches) and this guy (no name) took defense and kicked the HARDLINE kids ass. Blood spilled all over the floor (a broken nose maybe), but pepper spray was sprayed into his eyes so it was an even fight I suppose. Meanwhile the crowd evacuated on to the porch, due to burning eyes and scratchy throats, while Koo's volunteers used a shit-load of paper towels to wipe up the blood. The guys spent the remainder of the show under a hose, flushing out their eyes. I'd like to tell you about how great all the bands were and all the songs they sang, but the focus remained on what had happened so it took a lot away from what could have been a fuckin rad show, but I can tell you this: Fall Silents one new song since their Gehenna tour kicks ass.

-Sasha

Cannibal Corpse, Brutal Truth, Prophecy, Oppressor, and Immolation. Showcase (Corona) January 31, 1997

This show was one of the most expensive shows I have ever been to at Showcase. $17.00, but it didn't stop the hundreds of people that showed. It brought a lot of new comers to Showcase because the temperature rose to be at least 100 degrees inside and his was a surprise to some people. The crowd was derived of mainly true fans. All blackened out I was practically the only blond one there. But I didn't feel stupid because everyone there was really nice and nobody dogged me, except these two chicks, but I don't blame them. Hardly any other chicks around, but there was one beach balling and her clothes got ripped off and she stood bra only the remainder of the show. Gee what a surprise. Immolation(?) played a Misfits "Die Die" cover, so Brutal Truth played a Germs cover. The songs kicked ass but the crowd wasn't into that, but I was. Cannibals set went off . crowd yelled along the songs (mainly of old tunes, hardly any knew songs were played). The hair was flinging all over at high speeds, but the pit only went off on occasion. The crowd was down, but I over heard about ten people saying it was their first time actually seeing Cannibal Corpse. I personally went for Brutal Truth, who I must say: their shows always kick ass. Even though I don't condone pot smoking for which a lot of fatty's were lit at this show, I respect the music, and the fans that stay true to what they are into no matter
what is said. No one left this show unsatisfied except the Immolation fans because of their set was cut short (15 min).
This show started at 8:00pm and went on until 2:00 am. The latest I've ever stayed at The Showcase.

- Sasha

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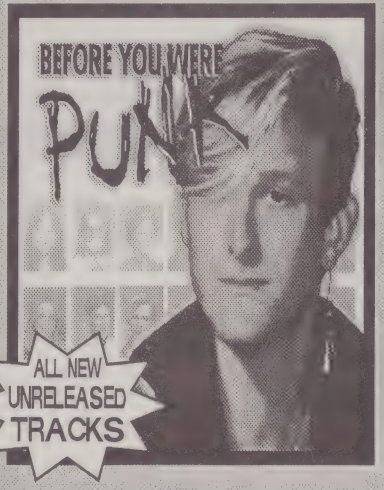

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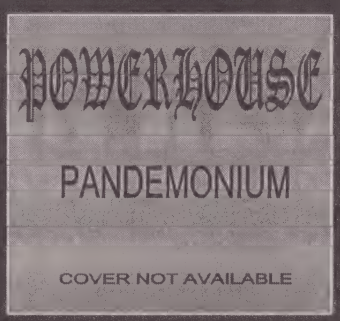

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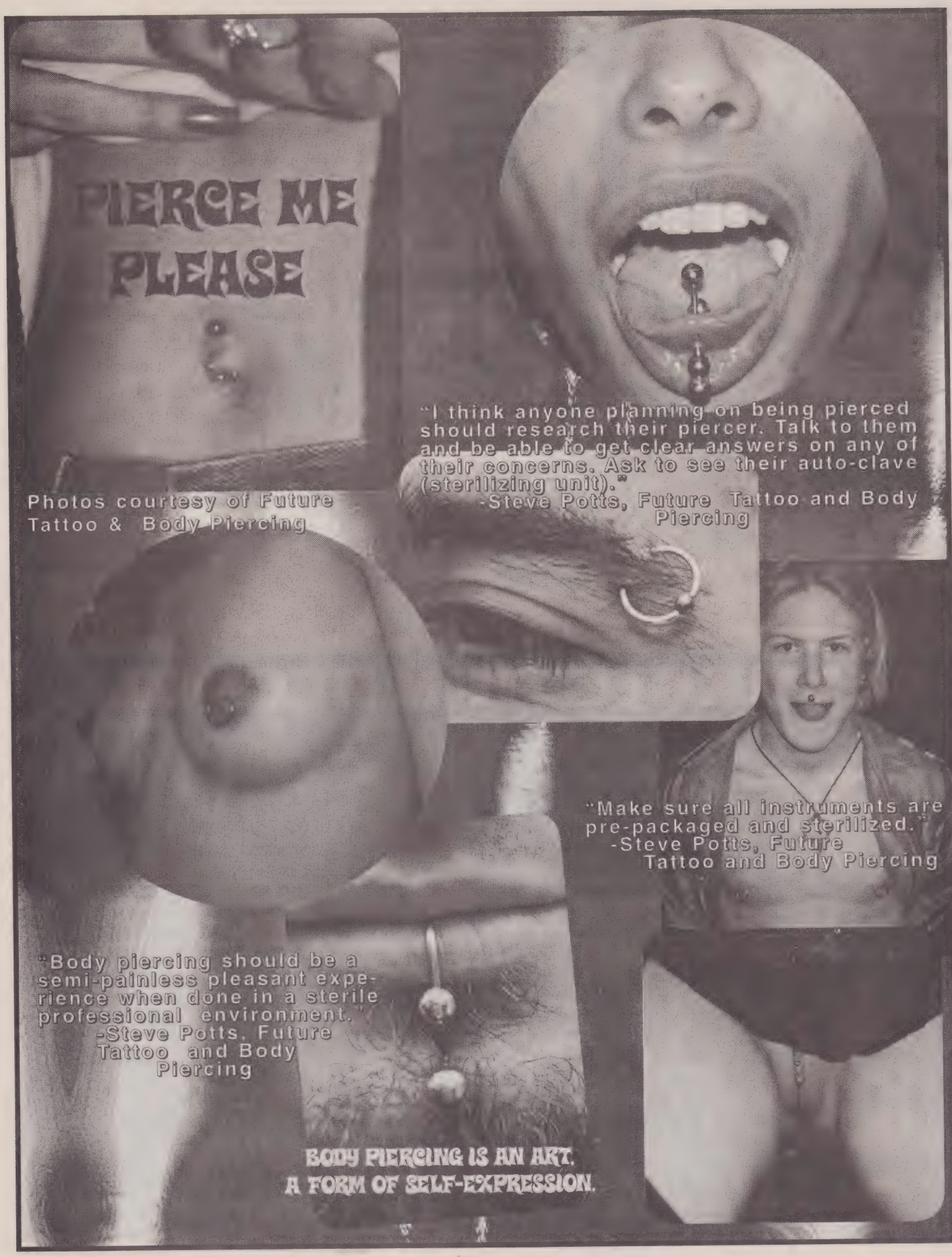
PIERCE ME PLEASE
"I think anyone planning on being pierced should research their piercer. Talk to them and be able to get clear answers on any of their concerns. Ask to see their auto-clave (sterilizing unit)."
-Steve Potts, Future Tattoo and Body Piercing
Photos courtesy of Future Tattoo & Body Piercing
"Make sure all instruments are pre-packaged and sterilized."
-Steve Potts, Future Tattoo and Body Piercing
"Body piercing should be a semi-painless pleasant experience when done in a sterile professional environment."
-Steve Potts, Future Tattoo and Body Piercing
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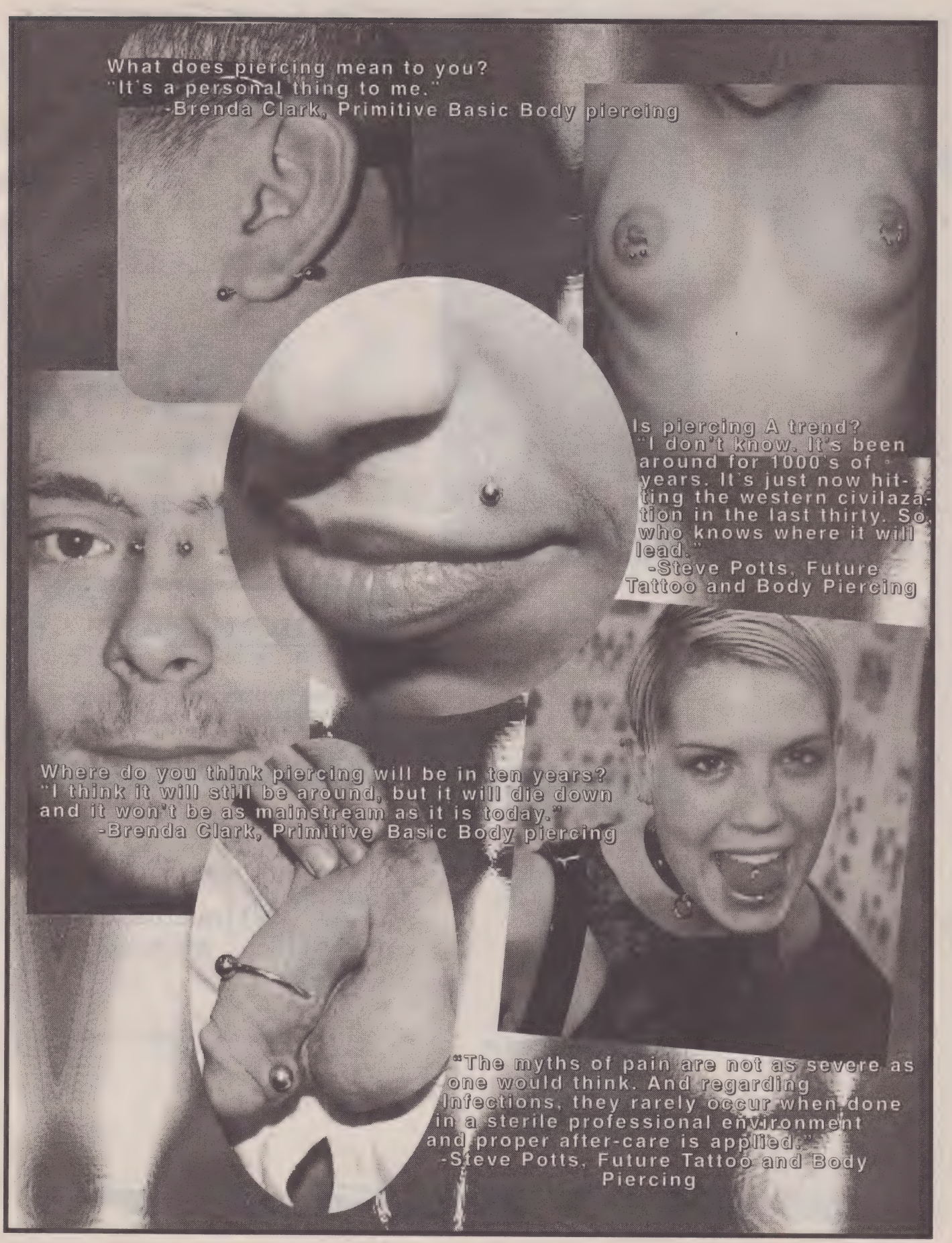
What does piercing mean to you?
"It's a personal thing to me."
-Brenda Clark, Primitive Basic Body piercing
Is piercing A trend?
"I don't know. It's been around for 1000's of years. It's just now hitting the western civilazation in the last thirty. So, who knows where it will lead."
-Steve Potts, Future Tattoo and Body Piercing
Where do you think piercing will be in ten years?
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-Brenda Clark, Primitive Basic Body piercing
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-Steve Potts, Future Tattoo and Body Piercing

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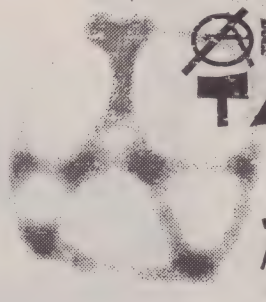

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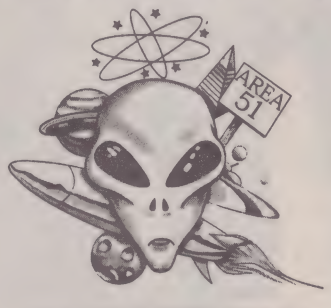

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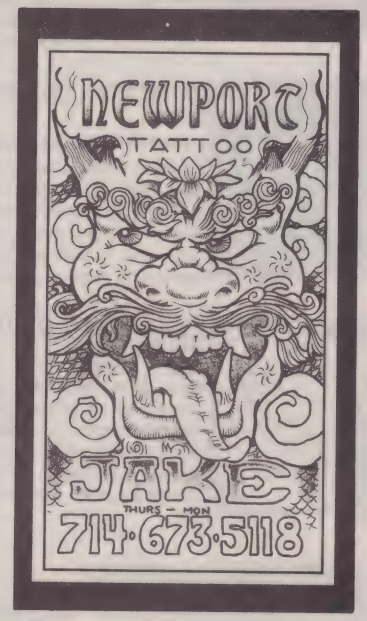

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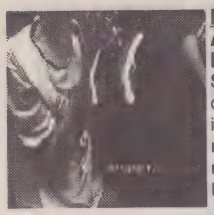
CD REVIEWS



DESPAIR
AS WE BLEED
INITIAL RECORDS
Straight out of Buffalo, they are definitely one of Buffalo's finest Hard Core bands. Deep intense vocals. Clean, crisp, and clear recording. Heavy, New School Snapcase related style. Wouldn't hurt to add to your Hard Core collection.

- Sasha

NINE IRON SPITFIRE
SEVENTH SOUL SACRIFICE
INDECISION RECORDS
Like a band containing members from Undertow is gonna get a bad review. Emotional, echoing, abrasive vocals, with intense ever-changing beats. Can't go wrong with this one.

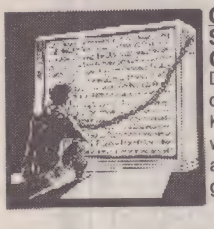
-Sasha

BROKEN HOPE
LOATHING
METAL BLADE RECORDS
Cannibal Corpse meets Pantera best describes this album. Descent Grind Core vocals, but the guitar riffs drain out the best. They should have toned down the guitar and brought out the drums and vocals. The slow segments sound great, but I suggest Old School long hair headbangers to buy this one, everyone else should stay away.

-Sasha

STRAPPING YOUNG LAD
CITY
CENTURY MEDIA RECORDS
Industrial strength heavy compile of tunes. When the pace picks up, it goes off, but they should of kept it that way. A lot of different styles are used, as well as various digital sound effects, so thumbs up for originality. This album could of done well about ten years ago. Another plus on the headbangers list.

-Sasha

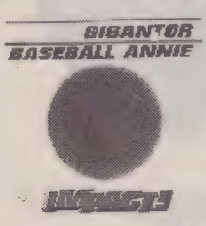


CONSPIRACY OF THOUGHT
SELF TITLED
C.O.T MUSIC
Dark, thick, discordant bass lines followed by a buzz of downer laden guitars and lots of tempo changes in a Korn/Malfunction grindcore style. Decent lyrics, and songs which pound and weave around themes of despair, anger and self examination. A trippy jazz riff now and again. Very good production, solid vox.

-Mel Torment

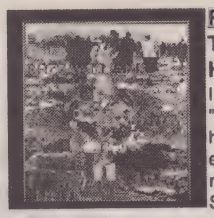
WHATEVER
JABBORWOCKY
DEADBEAT RECORDS
This is a mid-west punk band worth checking out. This CD opens with the catchy, hard hitting "Accidents Happen" and the rest of this album takes off from there. Solid changes, good rambling guitars and thumping rhythms. Whatever trips back and forth between a Fugazi like urgency and a straight ahead punk style catchy enough to almost qualify as pop. And then they go off, which is fine by me. Very few throw -a-ways tracks on this very cool CD, which has lyrics worth listening to and vocals that make you wanna Check the Giggi Allen drop in. Too cool.

-Mel Torment



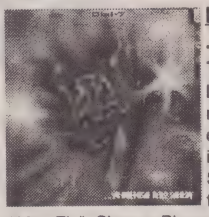
BASEBALL ANNIE/GIGANTOR
IMPACT
LOST & FOUND RECORDS
This is a split between two bands on a German label, and guess what- they sing in English. Baseball Annie is a melodic punk rock band that would do very well if they came to the states. Now the other band is Gigantor, their a little faster with their punk rock. Pretty cool record. I hope we get more records from German labels.

-Dan Gruia



ROZZ WILLIAMS
THE WHORSE'S MOUTH
HOLLOWS HILL SOUND RECORDINGS
I have no idea who this guy is or what he is all about, but "The Whorse's Mouth" has to be the most bizarre disc I've heard in recent memory, with its distorted spoken word exploration of themes ranging from religious desecration, to rape, feces, maggots, anal sex, and sin. Not unlike William S. Burroughs in diction, but presented more like a sick-and-twisted poetic sermon over background instrumentation of cello, guitar, bass, and piano. Proceed with caution, if you dare! P.O. Box 862558, Los Angeles, CA 90086-2558

-David Turbow



DIAL-7
...YESTERDAY WAS ALLDAY
133 RECORDS
DIAL-7 dishes out an impressive array of hip/hop, reggae, rap, funk, and punk on this CD. Having survived the death of former bandmate, Kid Bone, Dial-7 has grown seemingly invincible and even dedicated the album to his memory. Strong musicianship from guitarist Billy Roan shines all over the place in the vein of Dr. Know, especially on tracks like "Mac Fly". Shauny B's soulful vocals are also quite prominent on grooves like "One to Grow On", with its tight rhythmic changes. This bass in your face album is not only intoxicating in both the rhymes and the samples department, but also gets better with each listen.

-David Turbow

SQUIRTGUN
"ANOTHER SUNNY AFTERNOON"
LOOKOUT! RECORDS
Squirtgun is all about fun punk rock with catchy songs about boy/girl relationships such as: "Another Sunny Afternoon", "Hey Louise", and "Mary Ann". Perhaps not surprisingly (coming from Lookout!), Squirtgun employs the modern three chord catchy songwriting approach very well.

-David Turbow

D/RAILED
S/T
Energetic and flat out rockin', D/railed delivers an earful of loud and soulful tunes. Charlie Glancy's screeching pick slides and wah filtering are the driving force, but the subtle addition of trombones is also a part of the soundscape. Comparisons can be drawn to faves such as: Social Distortion ("Electric Asian"), Crowded House ("Californy") and even the Meat Puppets ("Peppermint Sun") until the Portugese lyrics in "So Voce" kick in, then it's anybody's guess. A solid album. P.O. Box 1506, Sunset Beach, CA 90742-1506

-David Turbow

COAL CHAMBER
ROADRUNNER RECORDS
Selective breeding produced this genetically cloned strain of KORN. Formula employed: (1) tune guitars down to C (2) repeat 5 note syncopated riff throughout each song (3) whisper indistinguishable lyrics about suffering and frustration 30 sec. into each track (4) build tension and volume (5) growl same words of agony ad nauseum, or until vocal cords atrophy. "Sway" is almost like Bloodhound Gang's humorous version of "The Roof is on Fire", only not funny.

-Paul E. Wog

GRIMBLE WEDGE
DISINFORMATIONAL DIRT
GOURAMIE RECORDS
This is an intentionally noisy, garage driven pop sound with sloppy guitar solos thrown sporadically into the mixture. While "Disinformational Dirt" could easily pass for a compilation of early Sub Pop singles, Grimble Wedge hails not from Seattle but from Tuscon, AZ. Difficult to characterize, their sound actually ranges from trippy feedback laden numbers reminiscent of the Butthole Surfers, all the way the punk leanings of "glass" and "synapse" with their Dead Kennedys feel. P.O. Box 856, Tucson, AZ 85702-0856

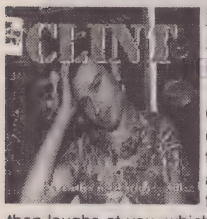
-David Turbow

BELISHA BEACON
GOODBYE
LOST & FOUND RECORDS
Ten songs that all sound exactly alike, played as fast as possible. With lyrics so lame that you think -- "maybe it's a parody of bad punk music." It even includes a pro-skinhead song. I call it Teutonic twaddle. If this is typical German punk, be thankful that you live in America.

-Empty

BUCK WILD
BEAT ME SILLY
LOBSTER RECORDS
I love the phrase "buck wild," because a close friend uses it to great effect in his stories. So I'm disappointed that this band isn't buck wild. Instead, its pretty standard power-punk-pop fare, unremarkable all the way round. High point -- their cover of the Turtles' "Happy Together". And it's never a good sign when the best song is a cover.

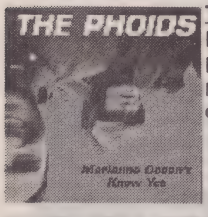
-Empty



CLINT
ANOTHER NIGHT IN LONELYSVILLE...
DENTAL RECORDS

Clint are punk. They might not dress up like Total Chaos or ever be on the cover of Maximum Rock n Roll, but what they lack in fashion sense and politics they make up in attitude. Like the annoying little brother that wont go away this 3-piece lashes out musically like a kick in the dick and then laughs at you, which obviously means, I dig this record. 25, yes that's right, 25 songs of speedy punk competently played and raw production that enhances the bands overall effect for maximum enjoyment. With songs like "You Fuck Around, You Get Your Ass Kicked", "I Can't Afford To Be Punk Like You", and "You Think Your Better Than Me, Your Not, Fuck You" Clint leaves no stone unturned and no one is innocent. And that's the way I like it. Hands down to one of Orange County's best punk bands.

-Maynard Krebs



THE PHOIDS
MARIANNE DOESN'T KNOW YET
Ng RECORDS
Middle of the road alt-rock, well-executed. Nothing really ear-catching here.

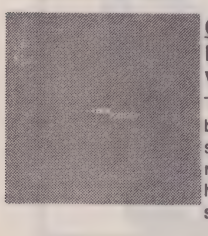
-Empty

E.X.P.
DEBUT
HOLLOWS HILLS
If your throwing a party and decide you want to make your guests leave, putting this disc on will assist you in this task. 45 minutes of self-indulgent experimental sounds accompanied by even more pretentious poetic lyrics. Boring.

-Maynard Krebs

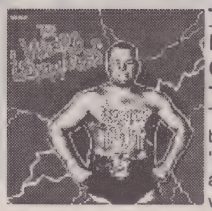
FACTION ZERO
LIBERATION
IJT(IDJIT) RECORDS
Now that's how I like my hardcore, fast drums and faster guitars. Faction Zero are pro's at driving 120mph into and through a brick wall. Just check out these lyrics from the song Come Full Circle "My confidence is shattered, isolated distrust I hate and despise you and curse you to dust Errors from the trials, subjected to the crown Obey the written enforced rules Correction misconception, digested false ingestion Try not to reflect upon all that has passed." A buy for any hardcore fan out there.

-Dan Gruia



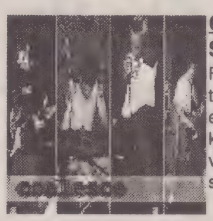
GUILT
FURTHER
VICTORY RECORDS
This six song E.P. from Guilt is as hardcore as it wants to be. The opening track starts slow with a drum solo, which sets a pattern for which the later songs can follow. This release is perfect for any young lad wanting to discover hardcore. It allows for a little taste test, because the last song ends with a drum/piano solo.

-Dan Gruia



THE WEIRD LOVEMAKERS
ELECTRIC CHUMP
GOURAMIE RECORDS
This CD packs 28 quirky, slightly-over-one-minute songs. The lyrics read like telegraphic entries in an adolescent boy's diary and have some entertaining moments -- I like "She's gonna take his cum-stained metaphors and rip them all to shreds." Musically, this could jack you up for a whole work day. Best songs are "It smells Like Rain," "Damon," "The Elves Have Taken Control" and "La Indecision Pesa Mas Que Mis Huevos." A big yes.

-Empty



COALESCE
SECOND NATURE RECORDINGS
Five tracks of hardcore that could easliy fit in with the roster of bands on Victory Records. Imagine Snapcase & early Neurosis fighting at Goleta Fest and you pretty much know what to expect. Good raw production and enough variation to keep you interested, make this one a pleasant suprise.

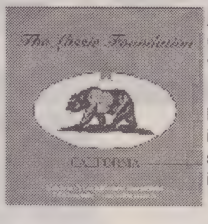
- Maynard Krebs

MCRACKINS
BEST FRIEND
MORDAM RECORDS
"Pop Punk poppin'" is how the Mcrackins describe their music, and that sums up the bouncy sound of this trio. If the Monkees were '90s guys instead of '60s guys . . . or, if you can't wait for new Green Day.

-Empty

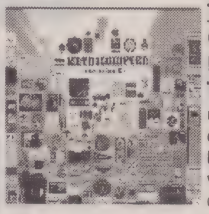
VARIOUS ARTISTS
THE FUTURE IS BLUE COMPILATION
VELVET BLUE MUSIC
This is an interesting local compilation, best described as college-oriented alternative. To me, that means music that has a slow beat and is angst-ridden. The Lassie Foundation's "I'm Stealin' to Be Your One in a Million" is beautiful and the Crocodiles' rockabilly number, "Grease," sounds dangerous, like good rockabilly should. Your call.

-Empty



LASSIE FOUNDATION
CALIFORNIA
VELVET BLUE MUSIC
Rich, melodic digitally mastered harmonic pieces -- perhaps what Brian Wilson would write if he were a '90s guy instead of a '60s guy. My only quibble is that the songs sound awfully similar to one another. If you feel like chilling to lovely sounds, California will definitely do the trick.

-Empty



THE METROSCHIFTER
GENERATION Rx
DOGHOUSE RECORDS
The Metroschifter seems to seems to be striving for an unvarnished, old time country feeling with this acoustic outing. Unfortunately, the vocals are strained, to put it kindly, so that one is grateful for the unimaginative intervening instrumental numbers. Check out John Doe's latest or Gillian Welch if you're into roots country music.

-Empty

GRAVITY'S PULL
RADIOSTATIONWAGON
SHANACHIE RECORDS
radiostationwagon fell like water in the desert on my harmony-starved ears. Brother and sister duo Mark and Sue Ivanitch bring the kind of passion to their vocals that John Doe and Exene brought to X's music. The songs here are mostly about love and alienation. "Plastic Umbrella" and "Abuser" are two favorites. Recommended, especially if you appreciate intelligent song writing and great singing. Not remotely punk, though.

-Empty

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HUMPERS
PLASTIQUE VALENTINE
EPITAPH RECORDS

Fuck yeah, The Humpers have released an L.P. that captures the energy of their live show. Raw with vicious punk rock that compares to The Heartbreakers. After being disappointed by last years "Live Forever..." L.P. this record satisfies like an ice cold Newcastle Ale in the summertime. From the ass kicking opening title track to the end, this L.P. blasts, providing raw rocking tunes along with some witty lyrics i.e.: "it must take alot of make-up to make a mess like you". Great bar room punk. Amazing.

-Maynard Krebs

ISAAC GREEN AND THE SKALARS
SKOOLIN' WITH THE SKALARS
MOON SKA RECORDS

If you're still unaware that Moon Ska is one of the hippest ska labels around, then go back to listening to kroq and goldfinger. The Skalars are from St. Louis playing their crazy cool traditional ska. Plus if your into girl singers the band features Soffers Jessica(alto), Michelle(baritone), and Amy(tenor) singing and also playing their sax.

-Dan Gruia

JOYSTICK
HEAVY CHEVY
LOBSTER RECORDS

This young band is from Montecito, Ca. But who cares because they play their melodic punk rock very well. And isn't that what were all here for anyway? This is not a bag, but after ten records reviews, I get like this.

-Dan Gruia

MY OWN VICTIM
NO VOICE, NO RIGHTS, NO FREEDOM
CENTURY MEDIA

Like a brick thrown at your cranium Kentucky's My Own Victim assaults you and leaves you wondering where did that come from? Sounding like a hybrid of Pantera/Biohazard meets Helmet. These boys keep the assault coming with 11 brain bashing tracks that never wimp out. This record shows that when done right, hardcore and metal can be a lethal combination.

-Maynard Krebs

SCREW 32
UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF BAD PEOPLE
FAT WRECK CHORDS

Pure punk rock from East Bay, up north, Berkeley, Gilman St., or Frisco. You can tell I don't know what's going on up there, but I do know a bad record when I hear it. Screw 32's new record is just a masterpiece of sound and fury. Andrew and the rest of the gang deal with responsibility, despair, pain, alcohol abuse, and much more. This record was co-produced by Fat Mike, if that means anything to you.

-Dan Gruia

THE SIREN 6!
THE VOICE WITH A BUILT IN PROMISE
KINGPIN RECORDS

How rare! A ska band with meaningful lyrics and a unique sound in songs like "Kill Your Idol", "Get it Right" and "Begin." It is a must have for your CD collection! These guys work hard at their music and boy does it show. They're not only quite impressive live-they're awesome on CD too! (Not to mention Sassy magazine named them cutest band!) Great for traditional rudes or 3rd wavers!

-Celeste

TRAMLAW
LAW OF AVERAGES
DOGHOUSE RECORDS

This is very alternative, not my cup of tea, but maybe its David Turbow's. I don't know why I'm stuck reviewing this because I feel I'm doing the band wrong. Hey Scott, for the March issue please give this cd to David Turbow.

-Dan Gruia

THE GAMMA MEN
440
NKVD RECORDS

San Diego's finest punk rock band release another record. This 15 song release is fucking amazing, I just can't stop listening to it. One question though, when are The Gamma Men coming to play in Orange Co., because I'll be there to see them bust out the punk rock, before their rock stars.

-Dan Gruia

THE HIGH FIVES
AND A WHOLE LOTTA YOU!
LOOKOUT RECORDS

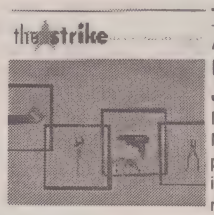
The High Fives play infectious rock n' roll with a garage band attitude. The 16 cuts come at you short and sweet with solid harmonies and a small dash of farfisa (for 60's credibility) reminding me of a improved version of Canada's Smugglers.

-Maynard Krebs

THE PSYCLONE RANGERS
beatin' on the bat pole / 10" EP
World Domination Records

The Psyclone Rangers are one of those bands which you dont hear of , in your regular rangs you pick up. Their music lies somewhere between psychobilly, old Texas bar rock bands, and noise sounds rock. This six song EP covers all those angels with a sound that's hard to dislike for an open minded music lover. I definetly have to catch this band play live.

- Dan Gruia



THE STRIKE
A CONSCIENCE LEFT TO STRUGGLE WITH POCKETS FULL OF RUST
JOHANNS FACE RECORDS

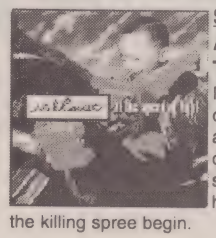
Damn, I just found a new favorite band and their from Minneapolis and they go by the name of The Strike. They play working class punk rock with some ska riffs through in once in a while. If you like this kind of music then definitely go out and get this.

-Dan Gruia

THE WRETCHED ONES
GO TO WORK
HEADACHE RECORDS

From New Jersey, The Wretched Ones deliver genuine working class street punk played at solid mid-tempo beat, memorable sing-along choruses and lyrics dealing with everyday situations that we all can relate to. These guys live what they sing and mean it, weather dealing with bullshit jobs "I'm just doing my job" gossip "mind your own business" and never taking themselves too seriously, as in their musical encounter with drunk aliens "take us to your leader". Straight ahead and tough, a great beer drinkin disc.

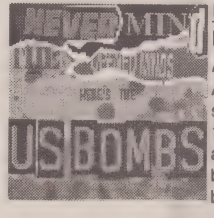
-Maynard Krebs



STILLSUIT
AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT
TVT/BUILDING RECORDS

Raw primal energy is what Stillsuit aims for and achieves on this disc. Combining the power of Helmet and the abrasive dissonance of The Unsane has created a band of lethal damadge that relies on pure power instead of studio over-production. No bullshit, no posing needed here, grab your uzi and pop this in your car stereo and let the killing spree begin.

-Maynard Krebs



U.S. BOMBS
NEVER MIND THE OPENED MINDS
ALIVE RECORDS

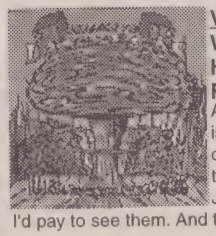
Another new release by the bombs, but this one is a six song E.P. dedicated to the memory of Sid Vicious (1957-1979). The songs are kinda weak compared to their last album but hey, its the U.S. Bombs, so support them, because they need it. They are punk rock to the max and back, Joe.

-Dan Gruia

V/A
I'VE GOT MY FRIENDS
FLAT RECORDS

Boy I sure love punk rock, and I love this record. 16 bands (hailing from S.F. and Boston) cranking out 32 songs of greatness, from 77 style pogo punk, Oi, or punk fueled psychobilly. Not a bad band in the bunch and all tracks are unreleased. Highlights include, Dropkick Murphys, Randumbs, Hellbillys, and the Swingin Utters (turning out some of their best cuts since their early days). All Punk, No Junk, Get It.

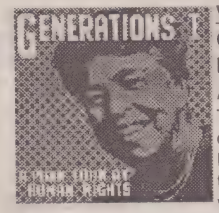
-Maynard Krebs



V/A
WELCOME TO LAS VEGAS... IT'S ALL DOWN HILL FROM HERE
FLIPSIDE/BLACKJACK RECORDS

A comp between two labels, does that sound strange or is it just me? Oh well, I don't care, as long as the bands can tickle my fancy. The Bloodclub were pretty cool, in their own punk way. Attaboy Skip are ska a-la Less Then Jake. Victim Five-O are happening. And The Vermin, well I'd pay to see them. And that's about it for this comp.

-Dan Gruia



V/A
GENERATION ONE - A PUNK LOOK AT HUMAN RIGHTS
ARK 21 RECORDS

This 18 song comp. is the first in a series of four cd's commemorating the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Right. Some of the bands on it are Bad Brains, The Vandals, Red Ants w/Excene Cervernkova, John doe, X-Members, Green Day, Lagwagon, and many more. A definite buy for the human rights individual in your punk rock family.

-Dan Gruia

THE DERITA SISTERS AND JUNIOR
TOO LAZY TO STEAL
REAL GEORGE RECORDS

Well, here's a few sample lyrics: "I see a pretty girl I am polite/Let's go fuck somewhere on Saturday night" (Little Miss Anarchy), "I'll sue your ass on People's Court, I need money, I need it fast" (Sue Everybody), "He'll call you a bitch or a nasty ho/He'll knock you flat and then take your dough." (Joe Blow the Lover Man). uh . . . huh, huh, huh. The Derita Sisters do have a new Queers sound that may appeal to the poppy pretty people. If this band created a new style of their own and matured lyrically, they might keep my interest.

-Lisa Apista

MY SUPERHERO
SOLID STATE 14
SICK LITTLE MONKEY MUSIC

Catchy, happy, power pop ska that will have you reminiscing of your past relationships. It's passionate, soft, tranquil, and a little jagged around the edges at times. "Leaving Soon," "Groovy," "Big Thursday," and "Reggie" are just a few of the highlights. Superhero's vocal harmonies work well, but are overused and when you have too much of something, it can become tiresome. Don't get me wrong, My Superhero matures on this album and finds their niche. I hear at times an Action League influence, which stands out on "One More Day" (personal favorite), and this is a good thing. I recommend Solid State 14, but don't overplay it - you may ruin a good thing.

-Scott Presant

BLISS
ORIGINAL MOTION PICTURE SOUNDTRACK
DIVINE RECORDINGS

This is a soundtrack fo the Pomer film, all you new school surfers out should know who he is. Some of the places this film was shot are Mehiho, and who knows how many places on the Ca. coast. And now for just some of the starting players, Tom Curran, Kelly Slater, Taylor Knox, Shoegazer, Texas Is The Reason, Chris Ward, Kalani Robb, Lagwagon, Corey Lopez, Millencolin, Everready, and the Hi-Fives. If your into surfing and bad ass music, just check out the movie or the soundtrack you won't be dissappointed.

-Dan Gruia

V/A
SKANKIN' IN THE PIT
HOPELESS RECORDS

Mustard plug opens this punk-ska compilation with "The Beer Song." Well, pour me another one, cuz I'm bored. Blue Meanies' "Smash the Magnavox" is unique and thrashes up some good ole' punk-ska. "Bakunin" by Against All Authority is not an accurate representation, but unfortunately rates better than most of the monotonous tracks on this 14-track compilation that simply underestimates the punk-ska genre.

-Lisa Apista

KNAPSACK
DAY THREE OF MY NEW LIFE
ALIAS RECORDS

Redding, California's 3-piece Knapsack formulate an alterna-power pop combo that frankly rocked my little ass on my nice lil' listen. You want some emotion -- you got it. Blair on vocals comes through and works as an integral part of the musical diversity, blowing up like a hydrogen bomb. Hey, Longfellow, tour with these guys! Day Three of My New Life has feeling, something that is lacking in my CD collection. I think I'll place it next to my Longfellow cd. Ahhhh, yeah.....

-Scott Presant

THE SKOLARS
S/T
JUMP UP! RECORDS

A fine 7-piece ska band that pounds out a similar sound to that of the Mighty Mighty Bosstones, especially because of Jeffrey's vocals. The Skolars have the punk-ska thing down pat and putting together irresistible tunes like "Should've Stayed Home Tonight," the bright, upbeat "Everyone," and the more traditional "Carry On." Add this one to your collection.

-Scott Presant

V/A
ALL FOR ONE . . . ONE FOR ALL
GRAND THEFT AUDIO

Yowee . . . 48 tracks on one compilation. So, what's the odds of 48 tracks being all good? The odds are very low my friends. Sorry CD consumers . . . Well, track one (RF7): very good, track two(Wrecks): whiny, obnoxious tough chick vocals, track 3 (Executioner): typical quick punk rock, track 4 (B.G.K.): another cheesy amateur punk band, track 5 (Undertakers): nicely produced, cool song, tracks 6-40: you listen. It's 48 songs, and I don't have 48 hours. Overall, a good CD with a good variety.

-Lisa Apista

HARLINGTOX ANGEL DIVIDE
S/T
LAUNDRY ROOM RECORDS

Is the record a joke, because I'm laughing. {Please go out and buy this, so, you can laugh with me. I think it's metal, but on the soft-core of metal, if there is such a thing. It's like that ballad kind of stuff that Bon Jovi used to do ..... Dave Grohl/Nirvana plays bass if that makes a difference to you, it should not, because Nirvana sucked anyway.

-Dan Gruia

DEMON JOKER JR.
3 MONTHS IN A DAY
LOST & FOUND

Hardcore music from that damn German label again. Pretty good shit if you're into hardcore. This 5 track ep left me wanting more. I didn't realize there was that many hardcore bands around, but I was wrong.

-Jeff Bullock

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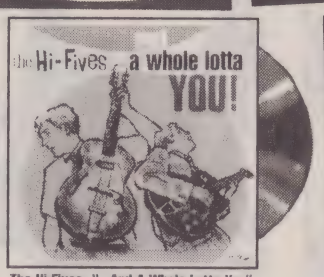

The Hi-Fives- "...And A Whole Lotta You"
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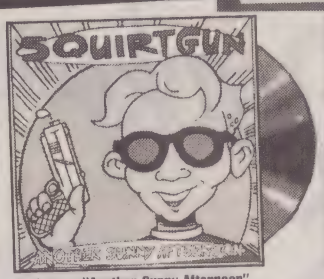

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THE DEMO-LITION PAGE

(okay, it's not a full page ya' bastards)

-by Jonny Vegas

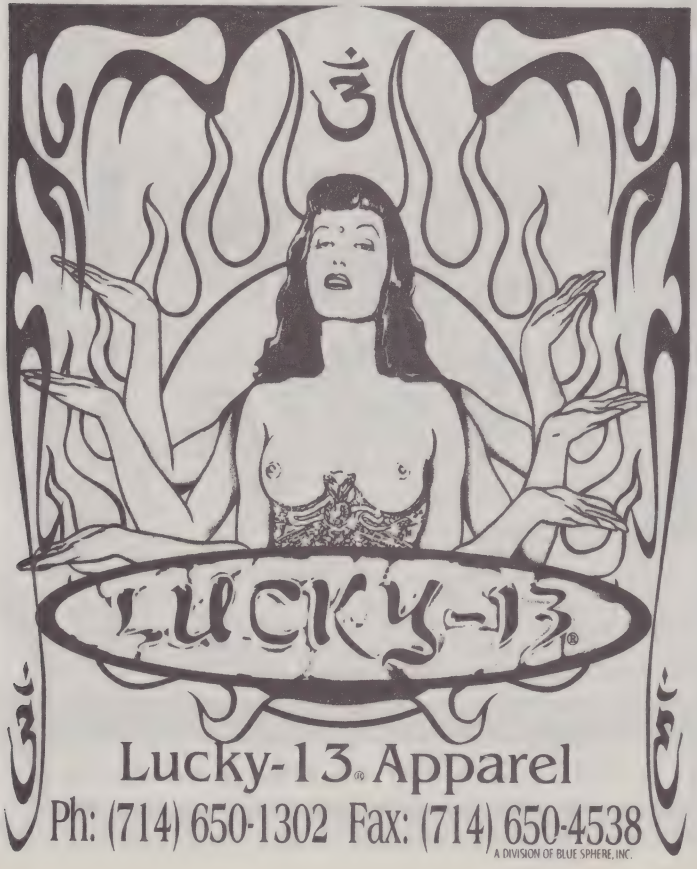
THE PHARMACEUTICAL BANDITS "S/T"- Not really a demo, but really an excellently produced 8 song tape. This young five piece ska band are great musicians, and write fun, catchy songs. The horns are tight. The guitarist is one of the best in the scene. Contact Matt@(310)493-1746

THE CARTUNES "Frisbee"- La Mirada based ska band with sax and trumpet. Reminds me of old My Superhero. Catchy, light songs, the type that you can kick it to in the car. Funny sound bytes between the seven songs. Kudos for writing a song about Jack Tripper. Contact Ron@(714)523-1046

ACME BOMB FACTORY "Nothing Special"- It's not punk, it's not ska, it's not Home Grown. Eight songs in a musical style that is borderline pop, but hard at times (can you tell I'm having a difficult time describing this band's sound). Although the tape is good, this four piece band represents much better live. Contact Dan@(714)351-2873

SIMPLE GREEN "S/T"- Strong, melodic punk rock. These four songs remind me of Face to Face (that's a good thing). Demos like this bum me out that I don't have a tape player in my car. (editor must translate: "bum me out" is Newport beach/Valley girl-bubble slang meaning to feel dissapointed) Simple Green should submit their tape to Fat Wreck Chords. (editor must take this time to mention- HEY FAT- are you reading this? we always cover your bands and even mention your name once in awhile in this thing we call a publication and you never seem to notice! Pay attention dammit!) Contact Nick@(714)637-5815

TEEN HEROES "S/T"- Three song demo by this 5 piece. Power pop, guitar driven, with keyboards. Although the music is not ska, the band includes Jesse from The Scholars and Ikey from Pocket Lent and Long Beach Dub Allstars. The music is comparative to Weezer, but with an excellent stage presence. Contact Ikey @ (310)272-6072



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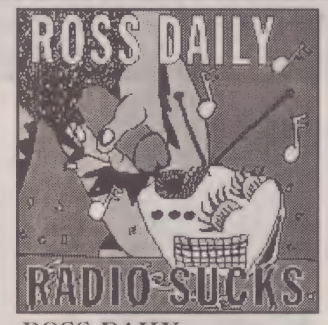
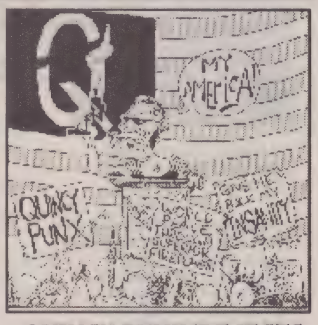


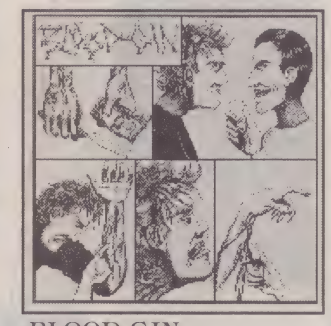
ROSS DAILY
V.M.L. RECORDS

THE MONARCHS
FLYING BOMB RECORDS



QUINCY PUNX/REJECTS
I'LL BE DEAD IN HELL..

THE VINDICTIVES
LOOKOUT RECORDS



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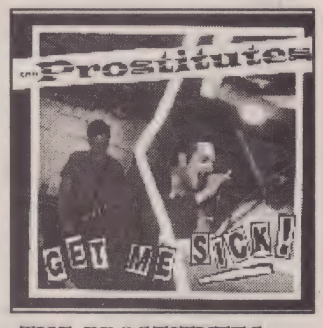

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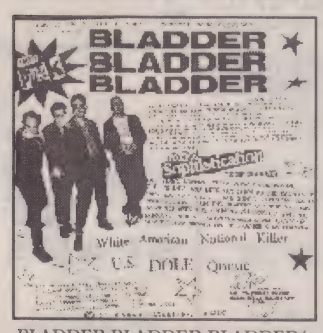

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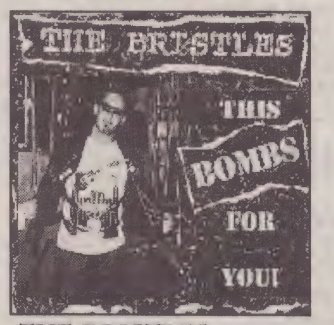

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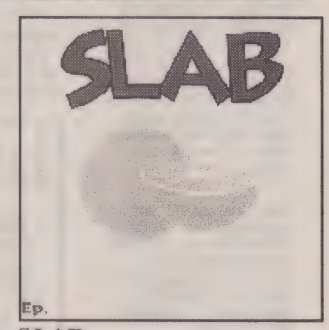

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Grover's Headache Ska-punk-alternative. Booking/merch/shows call Andrew 714 496-3835

Head Cheese 3 chord punk rock-blues-boogie. Shows: March 16 @ Loose Moose 3 P.M. For info/booking 714 771-9711

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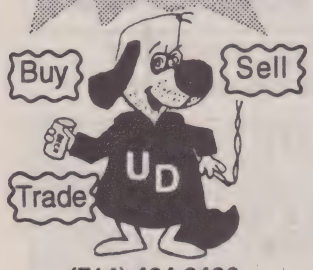

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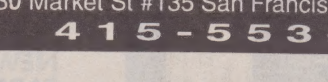

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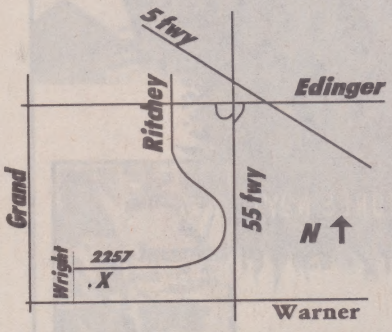

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